



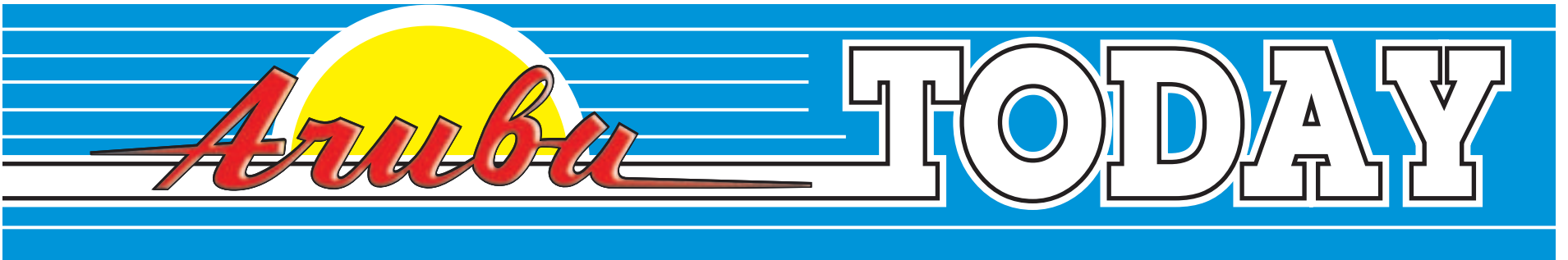
Q1 IN UNITED STATES SAW ECONOMY FALL AT STEEP 2.9% RATE

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On Top Of The News Email: news@arubatoday.com website: www.arubatoday.com Tel: +297 582-7800 Thursday, June 26, 2014



Boehner: US House Plans to Sue Obama

House Speaker John Boehner of Ohio arrives for a news conference on Capitol Hill in Washington, Wednesday, June 25, 2014. Boehner said Wednesday the Republican-controlled House will file an election-year lawsuit accusing President Barack Obama of failing to carry out the laws passed by Congress.

(AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite)

DAVID ESPO

AP Special Correspondent

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. House of Representatives will vote next month on legislation authorizing a campaign-season lawsuit accusing President Barack Obama of failing to carry out the laws passed by Congress, Republican Speaker John Boehner announced on Wednesday. In a memo distributed to House members, Boehner

accused Obama of “aggressive unilateralism” and said if left unchecked, it would give the president “king-like authority at the expense of the American people and their elected legislators.”

White House press secretary Josh Earnest dismissed any suggestion that the president has failed to act within the law in issuing executive orders or taking other actions. “We feel

completely confident that the president was operating within his authority as the president of the United States to take these steps on behalf of the American people,” he told reporters. Whatever the outcome of the suit in the courts, Boehner’s announcement guarantees creation of yet another political struggle between Republicans and Obama and his Democratic allies in a campaign al-

ready full of them.

“On matters ranging from health care and energy to foreign policy and education, President Obama has repeatedly run an end-around” on the American public and Congress, the speaker wrote. He accused him of “ignoring some statutes completely, selectively enforcing others and at times, creating laws of his own.”

At a news conference,

Boehner strongly brushed aside a question of whether impeachment proceedings could result from the suit.

In his memo, he stopped short of accusing the president of violating his oath of office. Instead, he said Obama was “straining the boundaries of the solemn oath he took on Inauguration Day.”

Continued on Page 3

West to Putin: Prove commitment to Ukraine peace

LYNN BERRY
Associated Press
MOSCOW (AP) —

The Kremlin on Wednesday renounced the right to send troops into Ukraine and voiced support for a peace plan, but the West said Russia must do much more to stop the fighting in eastern Ukraine if it wants to avoid a new, more crippling round of sanctions. A cease-fire, already fragile, is set to expire Friday,

At Putin's request, the Russian parliament rescinded a resolution that had empowered him to intervene militarily in Ukraine. Putin said his request was intended to support the peace process. U.S. and European governments welcomed the step but said it was not enough. "Now we believe it's critical for President Putin to prove by his actions, not just his words, that he is indeed

demand that the rebels lay down their weapons within a week was unrealistic because they fear reprisals. The cease-fire is set to expire Friday morning. On Tuesday, however, Poroshenko warned that he may end the truce ahead of time after the rebels used a shoulder-fired missile to shoot down a Ukrainian military helicopter, killing nine servicemen. In eastern Ukraine, resi-



Russian President Vladimir Putin attends a news conference after his meeting with Austrian President Heinz Fischer in the Hofburg Palace in Vienna, Austria.

(AP Photo/Alexei Nikolsky)

the same day that Ukraine signs a pivotal economic agreement with the European Union and the day that the EU and U.S. may consider further punitive measures against Russia. After months of upheaval, this much is clear: The West appears to accept that it can do nothing about Russia's annexation of Crimea, while Moscow seems resigned to Ukraine signing the sweeping trade pact that will bind the country more closely to the EU. It was the former Ukrainian president's abrupt decision late last year to back out of the EU deal under pressure from Russia that triggered the current crisis. But much uncertainty still surrounds the future of eastern Ukraine, where government troops are battling armed Moscow-backed separatists. The cease-fire has been repeatedly interrupted by fighting since it went into force last Friday.

fully committed to peace," U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry said at a meeting of diplomats from NATO nations in Brussels. The same message was delivered by the German chancellor and the NATO chief. Behind the scenes, meanwhile, the leaders of France, Germany and Ukraine spoke with Putin for more than an hour in a conference call. The four agreed that a mechanism needs to be set up to oversee the cease-fire, German Chancellor Angela Merkel's spokesman said. A statement issued by French President Francois Hollande said he and Merkel encouraged Putin to work with Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko to put such a mechanism in place. The Kremlin said that Putin once again called for extending the cease-fire and sitting down for talks. Putin has argued that Ukraine's

dents said fighting raged as recently as Wednesday morning around the city of Slovyansk, where at least one woman died when a mortar bomb tore through the roof of her house. AP reporters who visited Slovyansk saw fresh damage from the fighting, and witnesses said that rebels fired on government positions just outside the city, drawing retaliatory fire that damaged some residential buildings. Kerry listed the specific steps that the West expects Putin to take to show his commitment to peace: stop the flow of weapons and fighters from Russia to Ukraine, publicly call on the separatists to lay down their arms, withdraw Russian forces from the border and help secure the release of observers from the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe who have been held in eastern Ukraine for weeks.

Spying drop-off across Iraq preceded fresh insurgency

KEN DILANIAN
AP Intelligence Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — When John Maguire was a CIA officer in Beirut in the late 1980s during that country's bloody civil war, he spent weeks living in safe houses far from the U.S. Embassy, dodging militants who wanted to kidnap and kill Americans.

"We moved all over the city, and we would not sleep in the same place two nights in a row," Maguire said. In Iraq in 2014, by contrast, CIA officers have been largely hunkered down in their heavily fortified Baghdad compound since U.S. troops left the country in 2011, current and former officials say, allowing a once-rich network of intelligence sources to wither. Maguire and other current and former U.S. officials say the intelligence pullback is a big reason the U.S. was caught flat footed by the recent offensive by a Sunni-backed al-Qaida-inspired group that has seized a large swath of Iraq.

Iraq is emblematic, they say, of how a security-conscious CIA is finding it difficult to spy aggressively in dangerous environments without military protection. Intelligence blind spots have left the U.S. behind the curve on fast-moving world events, they say, whether it's disintegration in Iraq, Russia's move into Crimea or the collapse of several governments during the Arab Spring.

"This is a glaring example of the erosion of our street craft and our tradecraft and our capability to operate in a hard place," said Maguire, who helped run CIA operations in Iraq in 2004. "The U.S. taxpayer is not getting their money's worth."

The CIA declined immediate comment, but allies in Congress and some former agency officials strenuously dispute the criticism, saying that the intelligence community provided plenty of warning to the Obama administration that the insurgent Islamic State in Iraq and Levant, known as ISIL, could move on Iraqi cities. "This was not an intelligence failure — this was a policy failure," said Rep. Mike Rogers, a Republican and chairman of the House intelligence committee.

However, while U.S. intelligence officials predicted that ISIL would attempt to seize territory in Iraq this year, they did not appear to anticipate ISIL's offensive on June 10 to seize Mosul, which created a momentum that led to other successes. Officials also expressed surprise at how quickly the Iraqi army collapsed. And military leaders contemplating quick airstrikes said there was not enough intelligence to know what to hit.

A senior U.S. intelligence official who briefed reporters this week acknowledged that "a lot of the (intelligence) collection that we were receiving diminished significantly following the U.S. withdrawal in Iraq in 2011, when we lost some of the 'boots on the ground' view of what was going on." Under rules for such briefings, the official spoke on condition that her name not be used.

In the same briefing, the official disclosed that U.S. intelligence did not know who controlled Iraq's largest oil refinery. And she suggested that one of the biggest sources of intelligence for American analysts is Facebook and Twitter postings.

The U.S. spent nearly \$72 billion on intelligence gathering in 2013, and the CIA station in Baghdad remains one of the world's largest. But the agency has been unwilling to risk sending Americans out regularly to recruit and meet informants.

Kerry issues stern warning after Syria bombs Iraq

HAMZA HENDAWI

LARA JAKES

Associated Press

BAGHDAD (AP) — Syrian warplanes bombed Sunni militants' positions inside Iraq, military officials confirmed Wednesday, deepening the concerns that the extremist insurgency that spans the two neighboring countries could morph into an even wider regional conflict. U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry warned against the threat and said other nations should stay out.

Meanwhile, a new insurgent artillery offensive against Christian villages in the north of Iraq sent thousands of Christians fleeing from their homes, seeking sanctuary in Kurdish-controlled territory, Associated Press reporters who witnessed the scene said.

The United States government and a senior Iraqi military official confirmed that Syrian warplanes bombed militants' positions Tuesday in and near the border crossing in the town of Qaim. Iraq's other neighbors — Jordan, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Turkey — were all bolstering flights just inside their airspace to monitor the situation, said the Iraqi official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak to the media.

American officials said the target was the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant, the Sunni extremist group that has seized large swathes of Iraq and seeks to carve out a purist Islamic enclave across both sides of the Syria-Iraq border.

"We've made it clear to everyone in the region that we don't need anything to take place that might exacerbate the sectarian divisions that are already at a heightened level of tension," Kerry said, speaking in Brussels at a meeting of diplomats from NATO nations. "It's already important that nothing take place that contributes to the extremism or could act as a flash point with respect to the sectarian divide."

Meanwhile, Iran has been

flying surveillance drones in Iraq, according to U.S. officials who spoke on condition of anonymity because they weren't authorized to discuss the issue publicly. The intelligence-gathering is in addition to the presence in Baghdad this month of one of Iran's most powerful generals, Gen.

agency. And in an unusual twist, the U.S., Iran and Syria now find themselves with an overlapping interest in stabilizing Iraq's government.

In a reflection of how intertwined the Syria and Iraq conflicts have become, thousands of Shiite Iraqi militiamen helping President

al-Rishawi, told The Associated Press that 17 people were killed in an air raid there. The White House said intervention by Syria was not the way to stem the insurgents, who have virtually erased Iraq's western border with Syria and captured territory on the frontier with Jordan.

Reports that the Sunni militants have captured advanced weapons, tanks and Humvees from the Iraq military that have made their way into Syria, and that fighters are crossing freely from one side to the other have alarmed the Syrian government. The advanced weaponry has



U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry, right, speaks with European Union High Representative Catherine Ashton during a meeting of the North Atlantic Council in Foreign Ministers Session at NATO headquarters in Brussels on Wednesday, June 25, 2014.

(AP Photo/Virginia Mayo)

Qassem Soleimani, commander of the Revolutionary Guard's Quds Force, who was there to help Iraqis bolster their defenses and consult with leaders of Shiite militias that he has armed and trained.

The involvement of Syria and Iran in Iraq suggests a growing cooperation among the three Shiite-led governments in response to the raging Sunni insur-

Bashar Assad crush the Sunni-led uprising against him are returning home, putting a strain on the overstretched Syrian military as it struggles to retain territory recaptured in recent months from rebels.

Qaim, where the Syrian airstrikes took place Tuesday, is located in vast and mostly Sunni Anbar province. Its provincial government spokesman, Dhari

"The solution to the threat confronting Iraq is not the intervention of the Assad regime, which allowed ISIL to thrive in the first place," said Bernadette Meehan, a National Security Council spokeswoman. "The solution to Iraq's security challenge does not involve militias or the murderous Assad regime, but the strengthening of the Iraqi security forces to combat threats."

the potential to shift the balance of power in the largely stalemated fight between Assad's forces and the Sunni rebels fighting to topple him.

Bilal Saab, a senior fellow for Middle East Security at the Atlantic Council's Brent Scowcroft Center on International Security, said Assad's immediate priority is to fight the rebels inside his own country. □

Boehner: US House plans to sue Obama

Continued from front

Other Republicans have been less restrained. Rep. Lou Barletta, a Republican, said recently the House probably has the votes to impeach Obama, although he said he wasn't calling for it. One former tea party-backed lawmaker, ex-Rep. Allen West of

Florida, has called for the House to vote to remove the president from office.

Boehner also rejected a suggestion that the suit was a political move designed to give traditional Republican voters an added impetus for going to the polls in November when control of Congress will be at stake. But Rep. Steve Israel, who chairs the Democratic

campaign committee, said Boehner planned a politically motivated lawsuit," and predicted the voters would punish Republicans for it.

He accused the speaker of a "reprehensible waste of taxpayers' money and a desperate political stunt meant to gin up the Republican base at a time when House Republicans

are historically unpopular." Disputes about the balance of power between the executive branch and the Congress are as old as the Constitution under a system in which lawmakers pass laws and the president carries them out.

Boehner said the House "must act as an institution to defend the constitutional principles at stake." □

Obama claims progress on curbing climate change

JOSH LEDERMAN
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A year after unveiling sweeping plans to tackle climate change, President Barack Obama is highlighting efforts by his administration toward reducing greenhouse gas emissions, even though some of the most ambitious steps Obama has pledged remain in limbo. Wiping sweat from his brow in the summertime sun, Obama last June unveiled a second-term drive to bypass Congress while putting the United States on the track to cut heat-trapping emissions 17 percent by 2020, hoping U.S. leadership would spur other countries to act. "I'm convinced this is a fight that America must lead," Obama said at Georgetown University. On Wednesday, Obama is promoting what he's done to put that plan into action during a speech to the

League of Conservation Voters, which is spending millions this year attacking candidates who question climate change. For a president whose priorities have largely fallen victim to congressional gridlock, climate change marks a rare bright spot where Obama's own powers have allowed him to move forward in substantial ways. "The U.S. has become a leader in climate change mitigation and preparedness, and our work is just the beginning," said Dan Utech, Obama's top climate and energy adviser. The Center for Climate and Energy Solutions, a nonpartisan group formerly associated with the Pew Center, said this week that Obama has made at least some progress on most of the 75 goals he laid out last June. Those steps will require follow-through, but if the administration keeps up the pace it achieved in the past year,

the U.S. could meet its 17 percent goal, the center said. The centerpiece of Obama's plan, carbon

limits on existing power plants, is on track after the Environmental Protection Agency met its deadline to issue a draft, although the

timeline for states to comply has been delayed in some cases. Still, the limits have drawn major opposi-



President Barack Obama speaks in Washington. A year after unveiling sweeping plans to tackle climate change, President Barack Obama is highlighting efforts by his administration toward reducing greenhouse gas emissions, even though some of the most ambitious steps Obama has pledged remain in limbo. (AP Photo/Charles Dharapak)

tion from Republicans and some Democrats and will face legal challenges that could threaten their durability.

political allies to dictate an agenda that puts jobs and opportunity out of reach," said House Speaker John Boehner, a Republican. □

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GOP's rifts laid bare in reactions to Mississippi runoff

DAVID S. JOACHIM

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WASHINGTON - Republicans reacted Wednesday to Sen. Thad Cochran's victory-by-inches in a primary runoff in Mississippi with a mix of views that reflected the sharp divide between the party's establishment and Tea Party wings.

Sen. Ted Cruz of Texas, a prominent voice of the Tea Party movement, said that despite the loss Tuesday by state Sen. Chris McDaniel, the Tea Party-aligned challenger to Cochran, he was struck by how close the race was and by the great effort that establishment Republicans took to beat an upstart candidate.

"You saw the Washington Republican establishment put millions of dollars into that race to preserve an incumbent," Cruz said on Fox News Wednesday, "and they encouraged an awful lot of Democrats to vote in that race, and won a razor-thin race. I think that demonstrates that there's a lot of hunger for change." But Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., who just fought off a primary challenge of his own from several opponents to his right, called the campaign against Cochran a misguided "purification effort" that was only hurting the party.

"You add up all the money



U.S. Sen. Thad Cochran, R-Miss., waves to supporters and volunteers at his runoff election victory party at the Mississippi Children's Museum in Jackson, Miss. Cochran defeated state Sen. Chris McDaniel of Ellisville, in a primary runoff for the GOP nomination for senate.

we spent on this intraparty fight, that's a lot of resources we could have had to pick up the seats necessary to get a majority," Graham said Wednesday. "Thad Cochran, like any of us, I'm sure, is not a perfect senator. But really, is he the problem compared to our Democratic colleagues?" McDaniel has not conceded the race, but there were signs that some of his strongest backers were moving on.

"We are proud of the effort we made in Mississippi's Senate race, and we congratulate the winner," Chris

Chocola, the president of the Club for Growth, the anti-tax group that spent more than \$3 million to support McDaniel, said in a written statement. "We expect that Sen. Cochran and others gained a new appreciation of voter frustration about the threats to economic freedom and national solvency."

Some of the national Tea

Party groups that poured money into McDaniel's campaign were so angry that they were considering drastic options to keep their candidate afloat politically. According to one person involved in the discussions among the leaders of these groups, the possibilities include trying to build support for a third-party run by McDaniel - a

move that would almost certainly draw Republican votes away from Cochran and help his Democratic challenger, Travis Childers. In addition, some Tea Party leaders were discussing throwing their weight behind Childers. Though he is a Democrat, some of his views - he is anti-abortion and opposes the Affordable Care Act - are attractive to conservatives. "The Tea Party is so burned they may do something radical," a conservative leader involved in the planning said, asking not to be named in order to discuss internal deliberations.

Some Tea Party supporters were pushing for McDaniel to wage a write-in campaign in the general election. Wayne Allyn Root, a libertarian commentator and onetime third-party candidate for vice president who is aligned with the Tea Party, wrote on Twitter that if McDaniel campaigned as a write-in candidate, "I'll be in Mississippi campaigning by my friend's side. Take Cochran down in general election."

Rangel holds off challenger to win primary in New York

JONATHAN LEMIRE

JENNIFER PELTZ

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — U.S. Rep. Charles Rangel, the face of Harlem politics for generations, held off a strong Democratic primary challenge and moved one step closer to what he says will be his 23rd and final term in the House. Rangel, 84, defeated state Sen. Adriano Espaillat in a bruising fight that shed light on the changing face of a district that was once one of the nation's black political power bases. With 100 percent of the vote counted in unofficial results, Rangel led Espaillat 47.4 percent to

43.6 percent, a difference of fewer than 2,000 votes. Nearly 47,800 votes had been counted. The Associated Press called Rangel the winner based on information Wednesday from the city Board of Elections on ballots cast that were not included in the election night tally. The election pitted Rangel, the "Lion of Harlem" who has long personified the area's role in as a center of African-American political culture, against Espaillat, 59, a veteran state lawmaker seeking to become the first person born in the Dominican Republic to be elected to Congress.

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New York Attorney General Eric Schneiderman at a news conference in New York. Schneiderman, announced Wednesday, June 25, 2014, that he had filed civil fraud charges against Barclays over its private stock trading platform, contending that it favored high frequency traders over other investors.

(Hiroko Masuike/The New York Times)

NY attorney general sues Barclays

TOM HAYS

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — British banking and financial services firm Barclays PLC misled large institutional investors and other clients by falsely telling them it was taking measures to protect them from predatory high-frequency traders, New York's attorney general said Wednesday. The allegations against Barclays were contained in a securities fraud lawsuit that Attorney General Eric Schneiderman announced at a Manhattan news confer-

ence.

The complaint, filed in state Supreme Court, portrays "a flagrant pattern of fraud, deception and dishonesty with Barclays clients and the investing public," the attorney general said. In a statement, Barclays spokesman Mark Lane said the bank was co-operating with the attorney general. "We take these allegations very seriously. . . . The integrity of the the market is a top priority at Barclays," Lane said. The lawsuit alleges Barclays,

which has headquarters in London, deceived investors about its dark pool, an electronic trading operation intended to shield them from the high-frequency traders who use sophisticated computer programs to get early access to pending orders and other market-moving information. The bank promoted a service it claimed was a "surveillance" system that would identify and hold accountable "toxic," "predatory" and "aggressive" traders, the lawsuit says. □

House panel seeks to block pot law

EMMARIE HUETTEMAN

© 2014 New York Times

WASHINGTON - The House Appropriations Committee passed a measure on Wednesday to bar the District of Columbia from using either federal or local funds in carrying out a new law decriminalizing the possession of small amounts of marijuana, a move that could block the law if approved by Congress. The panel voted, 28-21, to approve the measure as an amendment to an appropriations bill that finances a number of gov-

ernment agencies as well as the District of Columbia. The next step is a full House vote. "Congress has the authority to stop irresponsible actions by local officials, and I am glad we did for the health and safety of children throughout the District," Rep. Andy Harris, R-Md., who proposed the provision, said in a statement. Under the law - which is scheduled to take effect in mid-July - possession of up to an ounce of marijuana would become a civil infraction punishable with a small fine. The maximum

penalty now is six months in jail and a \$1,000 fine. District laws must be reviewed by Congress, which has a certain amount of time to intervene by passing a joint resolution that the president must sign. This would not be the first time that Congress has bypassed the onerous review process in favor of simply withholding funding, including in the late 1990s after residents voted to legalize a medical marijuana program. Congress blocked money for it for more than a decade. □

US justices: 'Get a warrant' First to search cellphones

MARK SHERMAN

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A unanimous U.S. Supreme Court ruled Wednesday that police generally may not search the cellphones of people they arrest without first getting search warrants in an emphatic defense of privacy in the digital age.

Cellphones are unlike anything else police may find on someone they arrest, Chief Justice John Roberts wrote for the court. They are "not just another technological convenience," he said, but ubiquitous, increasingly powerful computers that contain vast quantities of personal, sensitive information.

"With all they contain and all they may reveal, they hold for many Americans the privacies of life," Roberts declared. So the message to police about what they should do before rummaging through a cellphone's contents following an arrest is simple: "Get a warrant." The chief justice acknowledged that barring searches would affect law enforcement, but he said: "Privacy comes at a cost."

What about other countries?

Canada's Supreme Court ruled last year, much as the U.S. justices did, that officers need a specific warrant to search a computer or a cellphone because the devices "give police access to an almost unlimited universe of information."

In Britain, however, warrantless searches of cellphones and other electronic devices are routine; London police stations are even equipped with special devices to suck data from the phones of arrestees as they're booked. By ruling as it did, the U.S. court chose not to extend earlier decisions from the 1970s — when cellphone technology was not yet available — that allow police to empty a suspect's pockets and examine whatever they find to ensure officers' safety and prevent the destruction of evidence.

The Obama administration and the state of California, defending cellphone searches, said the phones should have no greater protection from a search than anything else police find. But the defendants in the current cases, backed by civil libertarians, librarians and news media groups, argued that cellphones, especially smartphones, can store troves of sensitive personal information.

"By recognizing that the digital revolution has transformed our expectations of privacy, today's decision is itself revolutionary and will help to protect the privacy rights of all Americans," said American Civil Liberties Union legal director Steven Shapiro.

Under the U.S. Constitution's Fourth Amendment, police generally need a warrant before they can conduct a search. The warrant itself must be based on "probable cause," evidence that a crime has been committed. In the cases decided Wednesday, one defendant carried a smartphone, while the other carried an older flip phone. □

US Financial Front:

America's economy shrank at steep 2.9% rate in Q1

MARTIN CRUTSINGER
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. economy shrank at a steep annual rate of 2.9 percent in the January-March quarter as a harsh winter contributed to the biggest contraction since the depths of the recession five years ago. But the setback is widely thought to be temporary, with growth rebounding solidly since spring.

The first-quarter contraction reported Wednesday by the government was even more severe than the 1 percent annual decline it had estimated a month ago. Much of the downward revision reflected an unexpectedly sharp drop in health care spending. Another factor was a bigger trade deficit than earlier estimated.

Though such a sharp economic decline would typically stoke fears of another recession, analysts see it as a short-lived result of winter storms that shut factories, disrupted shipping and kept Americans away from shopping malls and auto dealerships. Many expect growth to reach a robust annual rate of 3.5 percent or better this quarter.

"Despite the awful start to the year, the U.S. economy is nowhere close to a re-

cession," said Sal Guatieri, senior economist at BMO Capital Markets.

Guatieri thinks growth is rebounding to a 3.8 percent annual rate in the current quarter and will average a solid 3 percent rate in the

second half of the year. Those negative forces will likely turn positive this quarter, analysts said. The economy is getting a lift from an improving job market, which has added more than 200,000 jobs each month over the past

four months.

helping." Stock investors appeared unfazed by the plunge in economic activity last quarter. The Dow Jones industrial average was up about 30 points in late-afternoon trading.

all activity reflected weaker spending on health care. Instead of growing at a 1 percent rate in the first quarter, health care spending actually fell at a 0.2 percent annual rate, the government estimated. It was the first quarterly drop in health care spending since 2011.

Analysts said the government was too optimistic about the boost the new health care law would give to spending in the first quarter. The harsh winter likely caused some people to delay elective surgeries and doctor visits. Analysts predicted that health care spending would rebound as people who have gained health insurance begin using their coverage.

Most analysts expect the economy to keep expanding at a healthy annual rate of around 3 percent in the second half of this year.

Reports on consumer spending, manufacturing and business investment have shown a solid rebound. Orders for big-ticket manufactured goods excluding military hardware and for core capital goods, a proxy for business investment, rose strongly in May, a report Wednesday showed. □



Executive chef Raymond Nicholson cuts a corned beef reuben sandwich at Corky & Lenny's Restaurant & Deli in Woodmere Village, Ohio. The Commerce Department released first-quarter gross domestic product on Wednesday, June 25, 2014. (AP Photo/Tony Dejak)

Other analysts noted that several likely temporary factors slowed the economy last quarter — from businesses reducing their pace of restocking to companies paring their purchases of equipment. Also, a wider trade deficit cut 1.5 percentage points from growth. Housing construction slumped.

"We had one-time hits from the weather, business inventories and trade in the first quarter," said Gus Faucher, senior economist at PNC Financial. "Things are looking much better for the rest of this year. Job gains are allowing households to increase their spending, with higher stock prices and home values also

Last quarter's 2.9 percent annual decline, as measured by the gross domestic product, followed a 2.6 percent gain in the fourth quarter. It was the weakest showing since the economy shrank at a 5.4 percent annual rate in the first quarter of 2009 in the midst of the Great Recession.

Two-thirds of Wednesday's downward revision in over-



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New York City: Chinese tycoon treats homeless to lunch

VERENA DOBNIK
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — A Chinese tycoon's effort to treat hundreds of homeless New Yorkers to a fancy lunch in Central Park fell apart Wednesday, with people booing, yelling and cursing when they found out he wasn't giving them cash.

Recycling magnate Chen Guangbiao, known for his eccentric gestures, selected a menu of sesame-seed-encrusted tuna, beef filet and berries with crème fraiche for the residents of the oldest homeless shelter in the country. He regaled his 250 guests by singing "We are the World" and performed magic tricks at the event.

About three dozen volunteer waiters wore uniforms similar to those once worn by soldiers in China's People's Liberation Army, bearing the words "Serve the People."

"I'm looking forward to a good time and a good meal," said Antone Hills, a shelter resident. "I think he's a good guy and he's helping our country."

Wads of cash, clipped together, filled wire baskets at the restaurant, and Chen waved some of the money in front of his guests.

But when the attendees discovered that they would

not be given the cash, an uproar ensued, with some yelling, "We want it now!" Officials from the New York City Rescue Mission urged Chen not to hand out cash because many of the guests are being treated for addictions and

"Our thought was if someone wants to treat them to an amazing event — something they would never experience on their own, maybe even a kernel of hope that life could be different again, we're in for that reason. That's our

His English language business card reads: "MOST CHARASMATIC PHILANTHROPIST OF CHINA."

"I was not born into a rich family or a family of government officials. When I was 4 years old, my brother and sister died of hunger,



Recycling magnate Chen Guangbiao sings to the media and his guests from the New York City Rescue Mission at The Loeb Boathouse restaurant in New York, Wednesday, June 25, 2014. The Chinese tycoon known for his sometimes eccentric gestures served up a fancy lunch Wednesday to hundreds of homeless New Yorkers at a Central Park restaurant and serenaded them with "We are the World." Chen said he wants to disprove the cliché image of rich Chinese spending money mostly on luxuries.

(AP Photo/Seth Wenig)

the money could be better used for their programs.

Others waiting outside, unable to get in because they were not registered, booed and cursed Chen, yelling "liar" and "con man."

motive," said the shelter's executive director, Craig Mayes.

Chen said he wants to disprove the cliché image of rich Chinese spending money mostly on luxuries.

so I achieved my success through confidence, self-motivation and my hard work," Chen said in Chinese in an interview on CBS. His worth is estimated \$750 million.

Reno man who killed wife, shot judge wants retrial

COTT SONNER
Associated Press

RENO, Nev. (AP) — A Reno man appealing his conviction for murdering his wife and trying to assassinate the judge handling their bitter divorce in 2006 believed he was justified in shooting a "corrupt" judge but worried about being viewed as a "nut-case" with a rifle, one of his lawyers wrote in a memo to co-counsel at the time. Darren Mack also told then-Reno defense lawyer Scott Freeman during a jailhouse meeting five months before his trial that any plea deal must not undermine his ability to "get his message out related to

the family law corruption," Freeman wrote in the memo to Las Vegas lawyer David Chesnoff on May 21, 2007. The memo recently was added to exhibits the former wealthy pawn shop owner attached to his latest appeal in U.S. District Court in Reno, claiming he received ineffective counsel and deserves a new trial. Judge Robert Jones agreed on Monday to extend until July 31 the deadline for state prosecutors to respond to the challenge.

Freeman, who now is a Washoe County district judge, was describing Mack's reservations about a defense strategy that

would have him plead not guilty by reason of insanity — referred to in the memo as "NGRI" — to attempted murder in the shooting of Family Court Judge Chuck Weller.

"He is concerned about the public perception of NGRI, in that he does not want to be viewed as a 'nut-case' with a rifle," Freeman wrote.

"If he is able to have answers to his satisfaction to this defense, then he is willing to support it because NGRI will accomplish his goal of what he believes to be the 'justifiable' shooting of Weller," he said.

Mack, who maintained that he slashed his wife's throat

in self-defense and insisted he wanted the case to go to trial, fled to Mexico and was the target of a 10-day manhunt before he turned himself in to Mexican authorities in a deal brokered on the telephone with District Attorney Richard Gammick.

He admitted he shot Weller through his courthouse office window with a high-powered rifle from a parking garage nearly two football fields away, but said he wasn't trying to kill the judge, only send him "a message." He ended up pleading guilty to first-degree murder and attempted murder in November 2007.

Chicago's City Council passes gun store law

CHICAGO (AP) — The Chicago City Council, forced by a federal judge to allow gun sales in the city, approved an ordinance Wednesday that dramatically limits where gun stores can open and puts owners on alert that officials will be watching every time they sell a gun. Mayor Rahm Emanuel and council members made it clear that the only reason they were voting to permit gun stores after decades of a ban was because of the ruling earlier this year that the ban was unconstitutional. The ruling followed a 2010 U.S. Supreme Court decision that invalidated the city's handgun ban.

"I really wish the Supreme Court justices who opened up the floodgates on guns had to take the calls I get at 2 o'clock in the morning from police sergeants and lieutenants about shootings," Alderman Will Burns said before the 48-0 vote. "This is the best we can do and I'm holding my nose and voting for it."

Chicago for decades has been at the center of the national debate over gun violence and gun control. After the Supreme Court's 2010 ruling on handguns, a federal appeals court in Chicago ruled in 2012 that Illinois' last-in-the-nation ban on concealed weapons was unconstitutional. Then came the January.

Some of the provisions will almost certainly trigger a legal challenge, including a requirement that all gun sales be videotaped and another that gun owners open their books for inspection by police.

The ordinance also prohibits gun stores in 99.5 percent of the city by confining sales to specific areas and prohibiting stores within 500 feet (150 meters) of schools and parks.

"It's actually an ordinance to prevent gun shops," said a gun rights advocate, Richard Pearson, executive director of the Illinois State Rifle Association.

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Explosion rocks shopping mall in Nigerian capital

BASHIR ADIGUN
Associated Press

ABUJA, Nigeria (AP) — An explosion blamed on Islamic extremists rocked a shopping mall in Nigeria's capital, Abuja, and police said 21 people were killed.

The blast came as Nigerians were preparing to watch their country's Super Eagles play Argentina at the World Cup in Brazil. Many shops at the mall have TV screens but it was unclear if the explosion was timed to coincide with the match, which started an hour later. Witnesses said body parts were scattered around the exit to Emab Plaza, in Abuja's upscale Wuse 2 suburb. One witness said he thought the bomb was dropped at the entrance to the mall by a motorcyclist. All spoke on condition of anonymity for fear of reprisals.

Soldiers shot and killed one suspect as he tried to escape on a powerbike and police detained a second suspect, Mike Omeri, the



Rescue workers carry the remains of a person in a body bag, after a explosion at a shopping mall in Abuja, Nigeria, Wednesday, June 25, 2014. An explosion rocked a shopping mall in Nigeria's capital, Abuja, on Wednesday and police say at least over 20 people have been killed and many wounded. Witnesses say body parts were scattered around the exit to Emab Plaza, in the upscale Wuse 11 suburb. (AP Photo/Olamikan Gbemiga)

government spokesman for the insurgency, said in a statement. Billows of black smoke could be seen from a mile (kilometer) away. "I heard the explosion and

(felt) the building shaking," said Shuaibu Baba, who had a narrow escape. He said he rushed downstairs to find that the driver who had dropped him a few minutes earlier was dead.

"I asked the driver to come with me, and he said 'No,' he would wait for me in the car." Police Superintendent

Frank Mba said 17 people were wounded and 21 bodies were recovered. Omeri urged people to be calm and said it was doing everything possible "to check the activities of insurgents."

It is the latest in a series of violent attacks blamed on Islamic extremists. Nigerian security forces appear incapable of curtailing the near-daily attacks concentrated in the northeast, where Boko Haram extremists have their stronghold.

On Tuesday night, extremists in the northeast attacked a military checkpoint and killed at least 21 soldiers and five civilians, witnesses and a hospital worker said Wednesday.

A soldier who escaped said the militants also abducted several of his colleagues in the attack near Damboa village, 85 kilometers (53 miles) from Maiduguri, capital of Borno state.

Explosion rocks Beirut hotel during raid

BASSEM MROUE
Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — A suicide bomber blew himself up in his room at a Beirut hotel Wednesday as Lebanese security forces raided the premises, causing an explosion that sent flames and a dark cloud of black smoke billowing out of the third-floor windows, security officials said.

The blast toward the end of evening rush-hour took place inside the Duroy Hotel in Beirut's Raouche district, a posh neighborhood of apartment towers and upscale hotels perched on cliffs overlooking the Mediterranean Sea.

Lebanese security forces, who detained a second suspected bomber in the sweep, sealed off the area around the hotel and armed gunmen fanned out on the street to secure the location.

The bombing is the latest in a string of attacks and security scares in Lebanon over the past week that have sparked fears of renewed violence in a country that has been deeply affected by the civil war in neighboring Syria.

"General security was conducting a raid and were able to arrest one suspect, while another blew himself up," Lebanon's military

prosecutor, Saqr Saqr, told reporters at the scene. "Three general security officers were wounded. An operation is underway at the hotel. Every room is being searched to see if there are more explosives." Lebanese Interior Minister Nohad Machnouk said the raid was a "preventative strike" by authorities, and that the "suicide bomber was going to detonate himself elsewhere and they managed to stop him." He said the suspect in custody was wounded, and is currently under guard at American University Hospital in Beirut.

A general security

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Hacking verdicts pile pressure on Cameron, Murdoch

JILL LAWLESS

Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Britain's epic tabloid phone-hacking trial ended Wednesday with a hung jury on two final counts — and a judge's rebuke for Prime Minister David Cameron, whose televised comments about the case while it was still underway almost scuttled proceedings. Cameron is already under pressure for his ties to the only person convicted at the trial, former News of the World tabloid editor — and ex-Downing Street communications director — Andy Coulson. Coulson's conviction for conspiracy to hack phones was also unwelcome news for Rupert Murdoch, his former employer, and raises the possibility of a corporate prosecution for Murdoch's media behemoth, News Corp. Senior Murdoch executives have already been questioned by U.K. police investigating

wrongdoing at his British tabloids and the Guardian newspaper reported Wednesday that detectives want to question Murdoch "under caution" — meaning as a potential suspect. Neither the police nor News Corp. would comment on that report. On Tuesday, a jury at London's Old Bailey unanimously convicted Coulson of conspiring to hack phones. Rebekah Brooks, the former chief executive of Murdoch's British newspapers, was acquitted on charges related to phone hacking, bribing officials and obstructing police. Her husband Charlie Brooks and three of her former employees also were cleared. Media industry analyst Claire Enders said Murdoch and his executives would likely be relieved, even with the mixed verdicts. "The conviction of Andy Coulson has definitely cre-



Andy Coulson, left, former News of the World editor and the former spin doctor of British Prime Minister David Cameron, leaves the Central Criminal Court in London, Wednesday, June 25, 2014. (AP Photo/Leiferis Pitarakis)

ated the possibility of a corporate prosecution," Enders said. "But that is a small worry compared to what would have occurred if Rebekah Brooks had been found guilty. The charges of which she

was acquitted, in particular perverting the course of justice, would have been difficult to shift from her ultimate boss." Judge John Saunders ended the trial on Wednesday — the 139th day of

proceedings — after jurors said they could not agree on whether Coulson and ex-News of the World royal editor Clive Goodman were guilty on two counts of paying police officers for royal phone directories. □

Lawyer: Alan Gross 'plans to end his life'

HAVANA (AP) — The wife and lawyer of Alan Gross, a U.S. government subcontractor serving a 15-year prison sentence in Cuba, said Wednesday they fear for his life even more after his mother's death from cancer last week. In Havana to visit her husband, Judy Gross again urged Washington to do whatever is necessary to secure his release after more than four years behind bars. "I am extremely worried that Alan is going to do

something drastic now that his mother is gone," she said in a statement. "My husband and I need President Obama to do everything in his power to end this nightmare and bring Alan home from Cuba now." Gross began a hunger strike in April to protest his confinement and pressure Washington and Havana resolve his case. He ended it after nine days at the request of his mother, Evelyn Gross, who died June 18 in Texas. He has lost more than 100 pounds, is losing vision

in his right eye and "both of his hips are failing," the statement read. "I am extremely worried that Alan is becoming more despondent every day," said Scott Gilbert, the Grosses' U.S. lawyer. "Both governments need to know that Alan plans to end his life in an effort to end this agony." U.S. and Cuban officials did not have immediate comment. Gross was arrested in 2009 while working to set up unauthorized Internet net-

works for the island's Jewish community on a contract with the U.S. Agency for International Development, a government entity. He says his activities were no threat to Cuba. But Havana considers such programs an affront to its sovereignty, and Gross was convicted under a statute governing crimes against the state. Cuba has made clear it wants to work out a solution involving three intelligence agents serving long prison terms in the United States

on spy-related charges. Washington says the cases are not comparable. Judy Gross suggested that a swap should be on the table, noting the recent exchange of five detainees at Guantanamo for a U.S. soldier held captive in Afghanistan. "If we can trade five members of the Taliban to bring home one American soldier," she said, "surely we can figure out a path forward to bring home one American citizen from a Cuban prison." □



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Crime fears, rumors of refuge draw children to US

ALBERTO ARCE
Associated Press

ARRIAGA, Mexico (AP)

— Five years ago Gladys Chinoy's mother left Guatemala for New York City, where she went to work in a restaurant and saved money for the day when she could bring her daughter north.

This month, convinced U.S. authorities were allowing unaccompanied children to stay in the country once they made it across the border, Gladys' mother told her to memorize her phone number and board a bus to Guatemala's northern border on the last day of school.

With nothing but the clothes on her back, the 14-year-old took a truck-tire raft across the Naranjo River into Mexico and joined a group of five women and a dozen children waiting with one of the smugglers who are paid \$6,000 to \$7,000 for each migrant they take to the U.S.

The women and children waited by the train tracks in this small town in the southern state of Chiapas until the shriek of a train whistle and the glare of headlights pierced the night. Suddenly, dozens of teens and mothers with young children flooded out of darkened homes and budget hotels, rushing to grab the safest places on the roof of the northbound freight train and join a deluge of children and mothers that is overwhelming the U.S. immigration system.

"If she gets across she can stay here, that's what you hear," said the mother, who declined to provide her name because she is in the U.S. illegally. "Now they say that all children need to do is hand themselves over to the Border Patrol."

The number of unaccompanied minors detained on the U.S. border has more than tripled since 2011. Children are also widely believed to be crossing with their parents in rising numbers, although the Obama administration has not released year-by-

year figures. The crisis has sparked weeks of bitter political debate inside the U.S., with the administration saying crime is driving migrants north from Central America and congressional Republicans saying Obama's policies are leading migrants to believe children and their mothers will be allowed to stay. In interviews along the primary migrant route north to the United States, dozens of migrants like Gladys indicated that both sides are right. A vast major-

ity said they were fleeing gang violence that has reached epidemic levels in Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador in recent years. The migrants also uniformly said they decided to head north because they had heard that a change in U.S. law requires the Border Patrol to swiftly release children and their mothers and let them stay in the United States.

The belief that women and children can safely surrender to authorities the moment they set foot in the U.S. has changed the calculus for tens of thousands of parents who no longer worry about their children finishing the dangerous trip north through Mexico with a potentially deadly multi-day hike through the desert Southwest. "The United States is giving us a great opportunity because now, with this new law, we don't have to try to cross the desert where so many people die. We can hand ourselves over directly to the authorities," Gladys said, adding that she hopes to become a doctor. The smiling teen-



In this Friday, June 20, 2014 photo, Central American migrants wait atop the freight train they had been traveling north on, as it starts to rain after the train suffered a minor derailment outside Reforma de Pineda, Chiapas state, Mexico. The train remained stuck in the remote wooded area for a day and a half. Migrants from Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador travel north through Mexico by train, by foot, or if they can afford it, by bus. Along the way, they face attacks by criminal gangs and extortion by Mexican authorities.

(AP Photo/Rebecca Blackwell)

der Patrol to swiftly release children and their mothers and let them stay in the United States. The belief that women and children can safely surrender to authorities the moment they set foot in the U.S. has changed the calculus for tens of thousands of parents who no longer worry about their children finishing the dangerous trip north through Mexico with a potentially deadly multi-day hike through the desert Southwest. "The United States is giving

ager with long black hair said she was more excited about seeing her mother again than she was scared about the trip. The migrants' faith isn't totally misplaced. While Mexicans generally are returned across the border quickly when they're caught, overwhelmed border facilities leave the government with no way to care for most Central American children and their parents. The Central American minors who cross the border alone have

ing in calls back home that they're free to move around the U.S. while their cases wend through a process that can take years. The Obama administration estimates that between October 2013 and September 2014 it will have caught 90,000 children trying to illegally cross the Mexican border without their parents. Last year, the U.S. returned fewer than 2,000 children to their native countries. □

Continued on Page 27

AP: In South Korea, ferry survivors return to school amid tears, grief

KIM YONG-HO
Associated Press

ANSAN, South Korea (AP)

— As parents of the dead wept, more than 70 teenagers who survived a ferry sinking that killed hundreds of their schoolmates walked in a somber procession Wednesday to their first classes since the

and 5 are still missing. Two of those rescued had already returned to school, officials said.

The return to classes of the survivors, who had been staying at a facility in Ansan where they had classes and therapy sessions, comes amid court hearings for the ferry crew

which began 64 years ago Wednesday with a North Korean invasion.

The government of President Park Geun-hye, whose dictator father ruled during the economic boom in the 1960s and 1970s that was dubbed the "Miracle on the Han," after the river that cuts through



Students who survived the sinking of a ferry Sewol are comforted by parents of their friends who lost their lives in the disaster as they make their way back for their first class since the disaster in Ansan, South Korea, Wednesday, June 25, 2014. As parents of the dead wept, more than 70 teenagers who survived the ferry sinking that killed hundreds of their schoolmates walked in a somber procession Wednesday to their first classes since the April disaster.

(AP Photo/Yonhap)

April disaster.

Some of the 73 students, wearing white and black uniforms and carrying book bags, bowed their heads as they cried and walked slowly from a bus to the school entrance. Some stopped to hug the parents of their friends, who caressed their hair and faces. Adults carried banners of encouragement. One read: "I love you." A large placard, which reads "We pray the dead will rest in peace," was hung up on the school entrance gate. The anger, grief and deep remorse at Danwon High School in Ansan, outside of Seoul, was a reflection of what many South Koreans have felt since the April 16 sinking that left more than 300 people dead or missing. Of the 325 students on a class trip to the southern holiday island of Jeju, 75 were rescued, 245 died

and the officials from the company that owned it. Many South Koreans also fault the government, the coast guard and even society for failing the victims. "We ask for a thorough investigation to find out why our friends and teachers had to become victims and why the rescue efforts didn't proceed properly and led to more victims," one of the surviving students, Shin Young-jin, said in an emotional address. "We hope that you will try to create a safer nation so that such a horrible accident never happens again."

After decades of negligence, many South Koreans are now questioning the country's history of ignoring safety issues as it pursued rapid economic development above all else following the devastation of the Korean War,

Seoul, has been battered by criticism that it should have done more before the sinking on safety and monitoring issues and that its incompetence botched the rescue operations.

The 15 crew members responsible for navigating the Sewol ferry face charges of negligence for failing to perform their duties to rescue passengers. Prosecutors say they abandoned the ship even though they knew passengers would be trapped and killed when the ferry sank. The defense has denied any collusion, saying the crew members were confused, injured and panicked.

Shin, the student, said that many people have tried to console the surviving students, but others have asked "unpleasant" questions that have reminded them of the sinking and made them feel guilty. □

North Korea warning U.S. of retaliation over film parody

CHOE SANG-HUN

© 2014 New York Times

SEOUL, South Korea - North Korea on Wednesday warned against the release of a Hollywood comedy film about a plot to assassinate its leader, Kim Jong Un, calling the movie an "act of war."

"If the United States administration tacitly approves or supports the release of this film, we will take a decisive and merciless countermeasure," a spokesman for its Foreign Ministry said in a statement carried by the state-run Korean Central News Agency.

The spokesman did not elaborate on what North Korea's retaliation might be. But he accused Washington of "provocative insanity" in mobilizing a "gangster filmmaker" to defile the country's supreme leader, and reported "a gust of hatred and rage" among its citizens and soldiers.

In "The Interview," a Columbia Pictures movie scheduled to be released in October, actor James Franco plays a talk show host and Seth Rogen his producer. The two pals head out to North Korea for an assignment of a lifetime: an exclusive interview with Kim, who in real life is the young dictator of a country that often threatens to fire nuclear missiles at Washington and its "pimp," President Barack Obama.

According to the plot line, the CIA then drafts them to kill Kim.

In the film's trailer, a female CIA analyst informs the duo about North Korea and Kim: "You are entering into the most dangerous country on Earth. Kim Jong Un's people believe anything he tells them, including that he can speak to dolphins or he doesn't urinate or defecate."

In real life, the North's totalitarian regime does try to ensure that its young leader, like his father and his grandfather - who ruled the country before him - is revered as a god-like figure among his impoverished people.

Its government lashes out at any hint of criticism or ridicule from the outside, reserving its harshest language for those who belittle Kim. With no independent media of its own, North Korea often argues that foreign media and human rights activists who have criticized Pyongyang did so at the behest of their governments. It regularly warns that it will bomb Seoul, including newspapers and television stations in the South Korean capital, unless they stop publishing articles mocking its leadership.

The Hollywood comedy has flown directly into that personality cult.

It "is the most blatant act of terrorism and an act of war that we will never tolerate," the North Korean statement said Wednesday.

As if the producers of the film had anticipated such a reaction, their publicity poster shows North Korean tanks and missiles with a sign that says: "War will begin!"

The poster also says in Korean: "Don't believe these ignorant Yankees!"

Despite his government's daily rhetoric against the United States, Kim Jong Il, Kim's late father, was said to have been a great fan and collector of Hollywood movies, especially the James Bond series. The elder Kim, whose love of films once led his spy agents to kidnap a South Korean movie director and his actress wife and bring them to Pyongyang, had used films as a tool of government propaganda.

He even penned a book called "On the Art of Cinema." □



Loyal Friends of Marriott Ocean Club Honored by ATA



PALM BEACH - Recently, ATA representative Marouska Heyliger had the great pleasure of honoring many loyal Aruba visitors with distinctive certificates from the Government of

Aruba. These certificates are a way to say "Masha Danki" for continuously choosing Aruba as a favorite vacation destination. The symbolic honorary titles are

presented in the name of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guests who visit Aruba for 10-19 or 20-or-more consecutive years. The honorees were Richard

and Dorothy Valenti and Steve and Patricia Romano of New York, who were honored as Goodwill Ambassadors, and Steve and Kathy Koons from Texas, who were hon-

ored as Distinguished Visitors. On the picture all honorees together with ATA rep Marouska and the GM Erwin from Marriott Ocean Club. □

Radisson Resort introduces Espa Products at Acclaimed Larimar Spa!



-Natural luxury spa products & treatments now available to spa visitors.

PALM BEACH - The Radisson Aruba Resort, Casino & Spa recently hosted a spa party at its acclaimed Larimar Spa to celebrate the spa's partnership with the ESPA brand of luxury organic spa products. Invited guests were pampered while they received a preview of the spa's impressive new menu of products and treatments.

In partnership with the AAA Four Diamond resort, ESPA has created a new spa menu, officially launching June 20, complete with signature treatments that evoke the true meaning of



the Caribbean while generating outstanding results of the mind and body and can be enjoyed as a couple, or individually.

Party guests were introduced to highlights of the new menu, including two new signature treatments, Atlantic Escape with Volcanic Stones and Relax and Reflect.

The Atlantic Escape with Volcanic Stones begins with a dry body brushing



ange, palmarosa and rose geranium. A therapeutic scalp massage completes the experience.

Both signature experiences are 110 minutes, beginning with a refreshing foot ritual and ending with a cleansing coconut water drink.

The new ESPA menu also includes three facials with a supplemental Lift & Firm Eye Treatment, and body treatments and massages including the Sun Down Body Wrap, Fitness Muscle Massage, and an Aromatherapy Massage complete with personal consultation where guests will choose from Detoxifier, De-Stresser, Muscle Relaxer, Jet-Lag Reviver, Immune Booster, Energiser, or Body Toner. "We are excited to begin working with ESPA at Radisson Aruba's Larimar Spa," said Albert Cruz, spa director at Radisson Aruba Resort, Casino & Spa. "ES-

ants of Rest & Relaxation, Nutrition & Diet, Rejuvenation, and Exercise & Fitness. We have completed the thorough training and are able to heighten our guests' experience, which is our overall goal at the resort."

As ESPA therapists, the resort's team was hand se-



lected and trained to ensure their skills and knowledge base are second to none. This training elevates the treatment experience at Radisson Aruba's Larimar Spa to new heights due to ESPA's technically advanced, holistic and personalized approach.

As global leaders in spa services, ESPA products



exfoliation process, followed by an indulgent massage with volcanic stones, and ends with a comforting scalp massage, using ESPA's famous Pink Hair and Scalp Mud. Relax and Reflect begins with a gentle skin cleanse with the Relaxing Salt Scrub followed by a one-hour personalized body massage using an aromatherapy oil blend of sweet or-



PA's values and high standards fall in line perfectly with the resort's core ten-

are found in esteemed spas across five continents. ESPA trained therapists are dedicated to producing results-driven, natural skincare, ensuring skin looks its best at every stage of life. ESPA's award-winning products are as unique as they are effective. They are tested each and every day by a highly trained and extremely professional global network of therapists. Photos show the launch party for ESPA's exclusive line of products and treatments, now available at Larimar Spa.





Where Aruba's culture becomes a total caribbean experience

The Caribbean Festival:
Aruba's Carnival experience
every week of the year!

Most visitors don't have the opportunity to experience Aruba's cultural highlight of the year—Carnival (or, as we call it here, Carnaval). But now you can discover the colorful spirit of Aruba's Carnival every Thursday evening at the Caribbean Festival. Situated on the island's southern tip in the heart of San Nicolas where Caribbean and Aruban cultures meet, the Caribbean Festival brings Carnival to life with live Calypso and Soca music, a parade of glittery dancers showcasing many of our past Carnival's gorgeous costumes, festive brass bands, stilt walkers, handi-crafts, and traditional homemade cuisine of the Caribbean region.

We encourage you to spend an evening with the locals, and enjoy a taste of our culture at the Caribbean Festival. It's also a great family or group activity!

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Price : \$64 per person, \$32 children 12 years and under.
Where : Main-Street San Nicolas
When : Thursdays from 6 pm to 10 pm

Information: visit your guest services desk in your hotel for more information and tickets.

The Caribbean Festival is an initiative of the Ministry of Tourism, Transportation, Primary Sector and Culture. Operated by the Caribbean Foundation.



World Cup Soccer Excites at MooMba Beach and Cafe the Plaza!



ORANJESTAD/PALM BEACH

- The World Cup craziness that is now spreading across Europe, South America and Central America can also be felt on Aruba, where the soccer fans go wild during the games of the Dutch national team, Brazil, Germany, Mexico, Belgium, Costa Rica and Uruguay, just to

name a few of the teams that will be playing in the next round. In Holland the orange fever can be felt and orange is the preferred color of dress, wig, mask or boa of the fans.

The World Cup, held in Brazil, is proving to be totally exhilarating, with long-standing super teams fall-

ing by the way-side, like Italy, England, Portugal and Spain. Brazil is still among the favorites for the title, although their matches have not been that good to begin with. Holland, with its young team, is now gaining force: its three front-line heroes Robben, van Persie and Sneijder are making

dreams come true and Holland is surprising the rather skeptical fans in a big way. Watching the round of 16 in the elimination round is done best at the soccer spots on the island, such as MooMba Beach and Cafe the Plaza, where giant screens, plentiful beer and snacks and soccer songs

keep the mood light and optimistic.

Photos show the fantastic atmosphere during the previous matches of the Dutch national team at MooMba and Cafe the Plaza: once you've seen these pix, you'll know where you should go for the best game-watching premises on the island.

Catch your own dinner with Driftwood!

Motto at Driftwood Restaurant: "from the pier to your plate!"



ORANJESTAD - The downtown marina is home of Driftwood Fishing Charters, the successful fisherman of the established seafood restaurant Driftwood in Oranjestad. Driftwood owner Herby

Merryweather has a love and passion for fishing. A fisherman who knows about fish, what our local waters have to offer, and what the words "fresh seafood" really mean. What Herby catches will be served in his restaurant on the same day. Herby loves to share his fishing passion with the many visitors to the island. His fleet of a 35ft. Twin Engine Bertram yacht and a 50ft. Twin Engine Post yacht, appropriately called "Driftwood I and II, is available for charters on 12 noon and from 1pm to 5pm.



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Driftwood Restaurant. This authentic Aruban seafood restaurant is located in characteristic downtown Oranjestad. Their

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Venus Williams of U.S. serves to Kurumi Nara of Japan during their women's singles match at the All England Lawn Tennis Championships in Wimbledon, London, Wednesday, June 25, 2014.
Associated Press

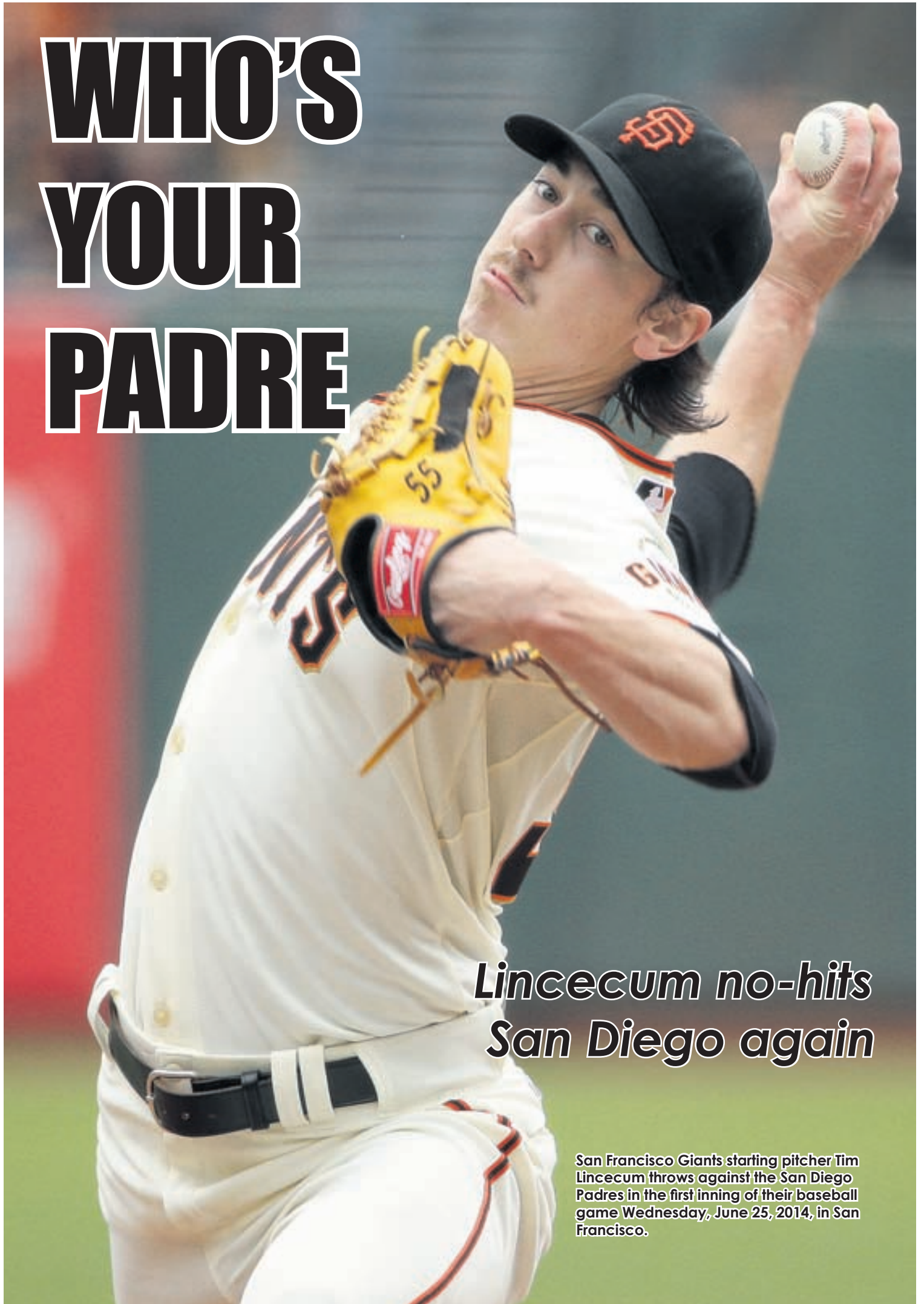
Venus Williams a factor at Wimbledon; Kvitova next

HOWARD FENDRICH
AP Tennis Writer

LONDON (AP) — Let others wonder when or whether Venus Williams might move on from tennis. She's not ready to contemplate going anywhere just yet. Even as her early losses accumulated, even as Williams got older and was forced to deal with health issues, she never entertained the idea of quitting. Here she is, at age 34, once again a factor at Wimbledon, site of five of her seven major titles. And there's a matchup against another former champion looming. Williams overcame a slow start Wednesday for a 7-6 (4), 6-1 victory over 41st-ranked Kurumi Nara of Japan to reach the third round at a Grand Slam tournament for only the second time in her past 10 appearances.

Continued on Page 18

WHO'S YOUR PADRE



Lincecum no-hits San Diego again

San Francisco Giants starting pitcher Tim Lincecum throws against the San Diego Padres in the first inning of their baseball game Wednesday, June 25, 2014, in San Francisco.

Woods says he's ahead of schedule and without pain

DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

BETHESDA, Maryland (AP)

— Tiger Woods returns to golf with big hopes, realistic expectations, and no pain for the first time in nearly two years.

Woods made his first public appearance in golf shoes since he walked gingerly off the golf course at Doral on March 9 with back pain that first presented itself in August 2012.

He had back surgery to alleviate a pinched nerve on March 31.

Asked for an opening comment on where he was with his recovery, Woods smiled and said, "I'm right here." "It's been an interesting road," he added. "This has been quite a tedious little process,

but been one where I got to a point where I can play competitive golf again. And it's pretty exciting."

It feels that way for all of golf, which has been without its biggest draw for five tournaments that he ordinarily would have played, including the Masters for



Tiger Woods watches his shot on the driving range during a practice round at the Quicken Loans National golf tournament, Tuesday, June 24, 2014, in Bethesda, Md.

Associated Press

the first time, the U.S. Open, and two events where he was the defending champion.

Woods said the British Open was his target all along, and he might not be playing the Quicken Loans National this week at Congressional if it did not benefit his foundation. That's not to suggest he was coming back too early. Woods said he has been in constant contact with doctors and trainers

as he slowly expanded his swing from chipping and putting to wedges, all the way up the bag to the driver, and then playing at home in South Florida.

He said he often stood on the back of the cart to avoid sitting. Early on in the recovery, he filled the holes on his practice green with sand so he wouldn't stoop too much to pluck the ball from the cup.

Woods is famous for saying

he doesn't enter any tournament if he doesn't think he can win. That much hasn't changed for Congressional, where he has won twice.

There is a dose of reality, however, when it comes to winning. Attribute that to age (38), the experience of nearly 20 years on tour, and having gone through so many recent seasons interrupted by injuries.

"Expectations don't

change," Woods said. "That's the ultimate goal. It's just that it's going to be a little bit harder this time. I just haven't had the amount of prep and reps that I would like. But I'm good enough to play, and I'm going to give it a go." Except for nine holes he wishes he didn't play at The Players Championship in 2011,

this is the second time in four years he has missed a three-month portion of the season. He didn't play the U.S. Open and British Open three years ago while letting leg injuries fully heal.

The difference this time was his lifestyle. Woods said he couldn't function in the weeks leading to his microdiscectomy surgery at the end of March.

"Anyone that has had any kind of nerve impingement, it's not a joke," he said.

"That part was relieved as soon as I got out of the surgery. That nerve impingement, that pain that I was feeling going down my leg was gone. □

Wimbledon

Continued from Page 17

"I don't like watching it on TV. I want to be out there. I'm not about the easy thing. Life is a challenge. For me, when I leave tennis, I want it to be on my own terms. I want to know that I rose to every challenge. I want to look back with no regrets," Williams said. "Everyone messes up. Everyone chokes. Everyone gets tight. Everyone loses matches they should have won. But as long as you walked out there and you gave it your all, you can look back with no regrets." Williams, a former No. 1 who is seeded 30th, revealed three years ago she was diagnosed with an energy-sapping autoimmune disease.

A year ago, she skipped Wimbledon because of a back injury. She hasn't been to the fourth round at a major since 2011 at the All England Club. But the American will return to

that stage if she beats that year's titlist, Petra Kvitová. "She likes to play on the grass," Kvitová said, "and I'm totally the same."

Williams fell behind 3-0 against Nara, then started finding the mark. In the tiebreaker, Williams again began poorly and trailed 4-1 before grabbing six points in a row for the set.

Nara, 22, spoke about this being a "very special" occasion for her, because she watched Williams on television "when I was a child."

A reporter asked Williams about being the oldest woman left in the tournament, and she jokingly pumped her fists.

"Wisdom has served me well," said Williams, who later returned to Court 3 to win a first-round doubles match with her sister Serena. "I've worn my sunscreen, so I haven't aged terribly. My knees are very tight, not saggy. And the



Novak Djokovic of Serbia returns the ball to Radek Stepanek of the Czech Republic during their men's singles match at the All England Lawn Tennis Championships in Wimbledon, London, Wednesday, June 25, 2014.

Associated Press

crow's feet have been kept at bay. So I'll give myself an A-plus."

The sixth-seeded Kvitová played with her right leg heavily taped because of a recent injury but had zero trouble in a 6-2, 6-0 victory over 59th-ranked Mona Barthel. The biggest names sent home were No. 8 Victoria Azarenka, the two-time Australian Open champion beaten by Bojana Jovanovski 6-3, 3-6, 7-5; and No. 7 David Ferrer,

who lost 6-7 (5), 6-0, 3-6, 6-3, 6-2 against qualifier Andrey Kuznetsov.

Azarenka missed most of this season with an injured left foot and is still working her way back into top form. A telling stat: She converted only 3 of 16 break points, which she called "just ridiculous."

Sam Querrey, an American ranked 67th, was at 9-all in the fifth set against 2008 Australian Open finalist Jo-Wilfried Tsonga when play

was halted because of fading light.

In all, the results were nothing like those "Can you believe that?" outcomes of the first Wednesday in 2013, when Roger Federer was among seven players who have been ranked No. 1 to exit the field in less than 10 hours.

The man who defeated Federer that day, Sergiy Stakhovsky, lost his next four Grand Slam matches. But Stakhovsky pulled off another surprise Wednesday, eliminating French Open semifinalist Ernests Gulbis.

Defending champion Andy Murray and last year's runner-up, 2011 titlist Novak Djokovic, both won. Murray's 6-1, 6-1, 6-0 victory over Blaz Rola, who won the 2013 NCAA singles championship for Ohio State, was devoid of drama. That wasn't the case with Djokovic's 6-4, 6-3, 6-7 (5), 7-6 (5) victory over 35-year-old Radek Stepanek, a serve-and-volleyer who tumbled to the grass repeatedly. □

Giants' Lincecum pitches 2nd no-hitter vs Padres

By RICK EYMER
Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) -- Tim Lincecum pitched his second no-hitter against the San Diego Padres in less than a year, allowing only one runner Wednesday and leading the San Francisco Giants to a 4-0 win. Lincecum totally shut down the weakest-hitting team in the majors, striking out six and walking one.

"I didn't feel like my stuff was great," he said.

No matter, Lincecum retired the final 23 batters after walking Chase Headley in the second inning. Though the Padres hit a few balls hard, San Francisco fielders didn't need to make any exceptional plays to preserve Lincecum's gem.

The 30-year-old Lincecum (6-5) threw 113 pitches for this win, using a big-breaking curve to set up his fastball. Last July 13 at San Diego, he threw 148 pitches while holding the Padres hitless.

"It was not a stuff day. It was more of a location day," he said.

The right-hander with two NL Cy Young Awards became just the second pitcher in major league history to twice no-hit the same team. Hall of Famer Addie Joss did it for Cleveland against the Chicago White Sox with a perfect game in 1908 and a no-hit-



San Francisco Giants pitcher Tim Lincecum, center, is embraced by teammates, from left, Pablo Sandoval, catcher Hector Sanchez, and Buster Posey after throwing a no-hitter against the San Diego Padres a baseball game Wednesday, June 25, 2014, in San Francisco. Lincecum threw his second career no-hitter as San Francisco won 4-0.

ter in 1910.

This was the third no-hitter in the majors this year. Clayton Kershaw did it exactly a week ago and his Los Angeles Dodgers teammate Josh Beckett did it earlier in the season.

Headley walked with one out in the second after falling behind 1-2 in the count. The Padres began the day worst in the majors in batting average, runs and hits. The Padres, incidentally, are the only franchise in the big leagues that has never

pitched a no-hitter.

Lincecum made quick work of the San Diego hitters in the late innings.

He drew a standing ovation when he batted in the eighth, then got another ovation when he took the mound to begin the ninth. Lincecum struck out pinch-hitter Chris Denorfia to open the ninth. Pinch-hitter Yasmani Grandal followed with a tapper back to Lincecum, who tossed to first for the out.

Will Venable was up next,

and Lincecum retired him on an easy grounder to second base. Lincecum took a few steps toward first when the ball was hit, stopped to watch the play and clapped his hand into his glove when it was over. Catcher Hector Sanchez soon met Lincecum for an embrace, and the rest of the Giants joined in the celebration.

Lincecum threw the 16th no-hitter in Giants' team history. Just one other pitcher has thrown two -

Christy Mathewson for the New York Giants more than 100 years ago.

Lincecum joined Justin Verlander, Mark Buehrle and Homer Bailey as active pitchers with two no-hitters. Nolan Ryan holds the all-time record with seven.

"Right now, I guess I'm just saying it's really cool," Lincecum said.

No longer the shaggy-haired ace of the Giants, Lincecum sported a mustache while thrilling 41,500 fans at AT&T Park. He lowered his ERA to 4.42 and put together quite a complete game - he went 2 for 3 with a walk and scored twice.

Lincecum starred for the Giants in 2010, going 16-10 as they won their first World Series crown since moving to San Francisco in 1958. He hasn't finished with a winning record since then, and was relegated to the bullpen when the Giants won another championship in 2012.

Buster Posey got four hits, including a double, and drove in two runs.

Ian Kennedy (5-9) allowed four runs on nine hits over 6 1/3 innings. He walked one and struck out eight.

The Giants took a 1-0 lead in the second when Brandon Crawford tripled and Sanchez hit a sacrifice fly. Sandoval doubled home a run in the third and Posey hit a two-run double in the seventh.

MLB Capsules

Zimmerman's homer lifts Nats over Brewers in 16



The Associated Press

MILWAUKEE (AP) — Ryan Zimmerman's two-run home run in the 16th inning lifted the Washington Nationals to a 4-2 victory over the Milwaukee Brewers on Tuesday.

Zimmerman hit a 2-0 pitch off Mike Fiers (0-1) over the wall in left field to score Adam LaRoche for the Nationals fourth consecutive win.

Tyler Clippard (5-2) pitched a scoreless 15th for the win. Rafael Soriano pitched the 16th for his 18th save.

With one out in the 16th, LaRoche hit a sharp single

that bounced off the wall in right field. Zimmerman then hit his third home run of the year to give the Nationals the lead in a game that took 5 hours, 22 minutes.

The Brewers threatened in the 13th, 14th and 15th innings, but couldn't score.

DIAMONDBACKS 9, **INDIANS** 8, 14 INNINGS
PHOENIX (AP) — Aaron Hill singled in Gerardo Parra from third in the 14th inning to lift Arizona past Cleveland just past midnight in a game that matched the longest in Chase Field history.

Parra tied his career high

with five hits in a game that saw Cleveland tie it with a run in the ninth and both teams score two in the 11th. At 5 hours, 32 minutes, the game matched the Diamondbacks' 10-9 win against St. Louis on April 3, 2013. Parra singled off Mark Lowe (0-1), the Indians' 10th pitcher. He stole second and advanced to third on a fly ball.

Carlos Santana's two-run homer put Cleveland up 8-6 in the 11th. David Peralta homered in the bottom of the inning and Ender Inciarte's RBI single tied it.

Messi scores 2 as Argentina beats Nigeria 3-2

The Associated Press

PORTO ALEGRE, Brazil (AP)

— Argentina beat Nigeria 3-2 in the last World Cup Group F match on Wednesday, with Lionel Messi and Ahmed Musa scoring two goals each before Marcos Rojo kneed in the winner.

World Cup Capsules

Argentina topped the group and Nigeria also advanced despite the loss, becoming the first African team in the Round of 16 in Brazil.

Messi had his best match of the World Cup so far, scoring twice in the first half to boost his tournament total to four goals, and repeatedly cutting up Nigeria's defense with dazzling runs and clever passes.

"We played against a team that wanted to play," Messi said. "I think we saw a good Argentina. We need to continue on this path."

The Argentina captain needed less than three minutes to finish Nigeria goalkeeper Vincent Enyeama's clean sheet in Brazil, slamming in the rebound after Angel Di Maria's shot bounced off the post. Nigeria replied within a minute as Musa cut in from the left and beat Sergio Romero with a curling shot toward the far post. Nearing halftime Messi tested Enyeama with a



Argentina's Lionel Messi, second right, scores his side's second goal on a free kick during the group F World Cup soccer match between Nigeria and Argentina at the Estadio Beira-Rio in Porto Alegre, Brazil, Wednesday, June 25, 2014.

Associated Press

25-meter free kick that the goalkeeper struggled to push to a corner. Having found his aim, Messi was ice cold when Nigeria gave up another free kick just moments later from a slightly shorter distance.

The second half started at the same furious pace as the first, with two goals within the first five minutes. First Musa took advantage of confusion in the Argentine defense to score his second. Then Rojo made it

3-2 as he got his right knee on a corner kick three minutes later.

— SWITZERLAND 3, HONDURAS 0

MANAUS, Brazil (AP) — Xherdan Shaqiri scored all three goals Wednesday to put Switzerland into the second round of the World Cup with a lopsided victory over Honduras.

The Swiss will next face Lionel Messi and Argentina on Tuesday in Sao Paulo.

Shaqiri scored his first goal in the sixth minute, dribbling into a crowd of defenders and curling a shot into the net off the underside of the crossbar. In the 31st, he collected a pass from Josip Drmic after a defensive error and easily beat Honduras goalkeeper Noel Valladares.

Shaqiri completed his hat trick in the 71st. Drmic did well to beat Honduras defender Victor Bernardez on the left and pass to a

charging Shaqiri, who one-timed his shot past a diving Valladares.

Switzerland finished second in Group E behind France, which held Ecuador to a 0-0 draw in the other game.

— FRANCE 0, ECUADOR 0

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) — France topped Group E despite being held to a scoreless draw by 10-man Ecuador.

Ecuador was reduced to 10 men after Antonio Valencia was shown a straight red card in the 50th minute for digging his studs into the leg of French defender Lucas Digne.

But Ecuador may feel upset that France center half Mamadou Sakho was not shown a red card in the eighth minute when he appeared to elbow Oswaldo Minda in the face during a France corner.

Then, in a late incident off the ball, France forward Olivier Giroud jabbed his elbow in to Gabriel Achilier, who was standing behind him.

France coach Didier Deschamps made six changes to his starting lineup, knowing his side was all but assured of advancing.

France came closest to scoring when Antoine Griezmann hit the post in the 47th and then missed a string of late chances as its much-vaunted attacked failed to live up to the hype generated by last Friday's 5-2 win against Switzerland. An inspired Ecuador went close in the 82nd when substitute midfielder Alex Ibarra broke down the right, cut inside center half Raphael Varane, and saw his powerful strike beaten away by goalkeeper Hugo Lloris.

— BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA 3, IRAN 1

SALVADOR, Brazil (AP) — Bosnia-Herzegovina ended Iran's hopes of advancing to the knockout stages from Group F, and registered its first World Cup win in the process.

The Bosnians, who were already out of contention. □

For U.S. fans stuck at work, a streaming milestone

RACHEL COHEN

AP Sports Writer

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP)

— The first two U.S. games at this World Cup kicked off at favorable times for watching on television back home. The Americans' group finale Thursday will be smack in the middle of the workday. The match against Germany, which could determine whether they advance to the knockout round, starts at noon on the East Coast, 9 a.m. out west.

U.S. fans' surging interest in the country's World Cup fortunes, and the surging comfort level with watching games online and on mobile devices, come to-

gether Thursday in what could be a milestone for live streaming.

Sunday's 2-2 tie with Portugal set records for WatchESPN, which allows subscribers who receive the network on their pay TV to stream the game for free. The average audience per minute was 490,000, with a total of nearly 1.4 million viewers.

But that match was played on a weekend evening, when it was easy for Americans to gather in front of the TV. It was watched by a record 18.2 million people on ESPN, and another 6.5 million on Spanish-language Univision.

Portugal's tying goal in the last minute of stoppage time prevented the U.S. from clinching a spot in the knockout round. Now the Americans need at least a draw against mighty Germany to ensure they advance; they could still move on with a loss depending on the result of the game between Ghana and Portugal played at the same time.

Indeed, even if fans get in front of a TV on Thursday, they still may use another device to keep an eye on the other Group G match. Through 40 games, WatchESPN telecasts have averaged 720,000 live unique

viewers, up 139 percent from 2010. At the time of the last World Cup, the iPad had been available for only a few months.

A hint of the potential for Thursday's game comes from last week's match between Brazil and Mexico, played on a Tuesday afternoon. With huge interest among Mexican-Americans, Univision Digital had 1.6 million unique viewers. Unlike ESPN, Univision Digital doesn't require a pay TV subscription at this stage of the tournament. So it should also draw a big streaming audience Thursday, with plenty of viewers who don't speak Spanish. □



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Penguins' Sidney Crosby named NHL MVP for 2nd time

GREG BEACHAM
AP Sports Writer

Seven years after Sidney Crosby won his first Hart Trophy, the Pittsburgh captain has been recognized as the NHL's most valuable player once again.

After his first full season without major injuries since 2010, the Penguins center cleaned up at the NHL's awards show in Las Vegas on Tuesday to cap a fruitful year that included a second gold medal as Canada's captain at the Sochi Olympics.

Crosby also collected the Art Ross Trophy as the league scoring champion and the Ted Lindsay Award as the players' choice for the NHL's most outstanding player.

In a modest acceptance speech, Crosby thanked his teammates and family. "I appreciate all the sacrifices you've made to allow me to play the game I love every day," Crosby said.

Crosby won his second NHL scoring title with 104 points, including 68 assists in his fifth career 100-point season. Crosby scored in 60 of his 80 games, never going more than two games without a point for the Metropolitan Division champion Penguins.

Crosby hadn't won the Hart Trophy since 2007, when he led the NHL in scoring as a 19-year-old prodigy. This time around, Sid the Kid handily beat out Anaheim captain Ryan Getzlaf and Philadelphia captain Claude Giroux, receiving 128 of the 137 first-place votes from a panel of hockey writers. Getzlaf finished second.

"You play for the big one that the Kings have here



In this photo provided by the Las Vegas News Bureau, Sidney Crosby of the Pittsburgh Penguins poses with the Ted Lindsay Award for being voted most outstanding player in the league by the players, the Art Ross Trophy for leading the league in scoring points, and the Hart Memorial Trophy which recognizes the most valuable player to his team, at the 2014 NHL Awards at Wynn Las Vegas. Tuesday, June 24, 2014.

Associated Press

tonight, but this is definitely nice," Crosby told the NHL Network, referring to the Los Angeles Kings' Stanley Cup title.

Crosby was particularly honored by his second straight Ted Lindsay Award. Crosby received the Lindsay from his fellow players last season, but was beaten out by Washington's Alex Ovechkin for the Hart.

"Those are the guys that you compete against every night," Crosby said. "Knowing that and being selected, it's an honor and a compliment."

Boston's Tuukka Rask won the Vezina Trophy as the

best goaltender, and Bruins teammate Patrice Bergeron won his second Selke Trophy as the NHL's best defensive forward. Chicago's Duncan Keith won his second Norris Trophy as the league's top defenseman.

Colorado coach Patrick Roy won the Adams Award in his first season, while Avalanche forward Nathan MacKinnon became the youngest player to win the Calder Trophy as the NHL's top rookie.

The winners of the league's statistical awards also were recognized at the ceremony in the Encore

Theater at Wynn Las Vegas. Ovechkin accepted his fourth Richard Trophy as the NHL's top goal-scorer, while Jonathan Quick and the Kings won their first Jennings Trophy for the NHL's fewest goals allowed. Dominic Moore of the New York Rangers won the Masterton Trophy, an award for perseverance, sportsmanship and dedication to hockey. Colorado's Ryan O'Reilly won the Lady Byng Trophy for his sportsmanship and gentlemanly conduct after scoring a career-best 64 points while committing just one minor penalty all year.

Anaheim general manager Bob Murray was voted the NHL's general manager of the year after building the Ducks into the two-time Pacific Division champions and the Western Conference's top regular-season team.



Cavs' Blatt: "I'm a basketball coach."

TOM WITHERS
AP Sports Writer

INDEPENDENCE, Ohio (AP)

— Like most kids growing up near Boston, David Blatt lived and breathed the Celtics. They were his team, the only team.

Pressing a transistor radio against his ear, Blatt listened as legendary announcer Johnny Most described how Bill Russell grabbed rebounds and when John Havlicek "stole the ball!"

At an early age, he was hooked on hoops.

"I kind of had that NBA dream in my ear and in my heart," Blatt said.

And now, it's back in his life.

Blatt was introduced Wednesday as the new coach of the Cavaliers, a team in transition as it prepares to select first in the NBA draft and make a strong run at LeBron James, the soon-to-be free agent who has several other teams making moves to try and get him. Blatt spent the past two decades in Israel, where he developed into a top international coach. Now, after winning numerous titles across Europe and guiding Russia to a bronze medal in the 2012 London Olympics, Blatt is ready to take on the challenge of coaching on pro basketball's biggest stage.

It was time to make the jump, and the Cavs helped Blatt's overseas

leap.

"Absolutely it's a challenge," Blatt said of his upcoming transition. "But I've got to tell you, the game is not so different as people think it is. It's a little bit longer here. Perhaps the level of athleticism and speed all around the court is different. But it's not like playing baseball and soccer. It's still the same game."

Blatt isn't hung up on labels or perceptions. He doesn't consider himself an Israeli coach, European coach or any type for that matter. He doesn't favor offense over defense.

"I'm a basketball coach," he said, "someone who through teaching and working with people and getting the most out of my players and staff has always seen the success of the team as paramount."

The Cavaliers spent nearly six weeks looking for their third coach in three years before hiring Blatt, who recently resigned as coach of Maccabi Tel Aviv, a squad he led to this year's Euroleague title. Cavs general manager David Griffin said Blatt was one of "five or six" candidates who had full-blown interviews and the club contacted as many as 11 coaches.

"He's truly the embodiment of every characteristic we most sought in a coach," Griffin said.



Cleveland Cavaliers new head coach David Blatt, left, answers questions during a news conference Wednesday, June 25, 2014, in Independence, Ohio.
Associated Press

"He's a guy who has passion, creativity and intelligence. As a coach, he's able to adjust in ways that make him special because of those things. He lives those things as a man as well. Because of all that, the players all feel him in a very powerful way. David is an authentic leader."

The team hired finalist Tyrone Lue as an associate head coach under Blatt. Blatt understands there's a responsibility that comes with being the first at anything. He believes other European coaches are as qualified to coach in the NBA, but he's the one getting the chance.

"I know I'm carrying the torch, and I hope like hell I don't drop it," he said. "I don't plan to. It does mean a great deal."

Blatt was charming, convincing and self-effacing during a 30-minute news

conference at Cleveland Clinic Courts. Blatt said he had previous chances to come to the NBA, but the timing wasn't right.

"Somebody told me the reason I did it is because I missed Boston lobster and macaroni and cheese," he cracked. "There's something to that, honestly."

Blatt is taking over a team that went 33-49 last season and underachieved for Mike Brown, who was fired on May 12, ending his second stint in Cleveland. Blatt believes the Cavs have the pieces to be a contender, and that it's up to him to put them together.

And that would be the case in any country.

"I find a group of guys that want to be coached, that want to learn, that care about winning," he said. "Those are things I have to emphasize with them,

that I have to strengthen and help them understand the right way to do it."

"I've coached enough great players in my life to know when guys are happy playing together and are seeing that doing it the right way brings and fosters the spirit you need to win, it doesn't make a difference where you coach."

Blatt feels he's finally where he belongs. He had a great run overseas, but it was time to come back to where he started. It was time to come home.

"I was happy and fulfilled in what I was doing," he said. "But I never, for a moment, lost the hope that I would come full circle and make my way back to the places where I grew up and to be part of something that was so much a part of me." □

NFL agrees to remove cap on concussion damages

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — The National Football League agreed Wednesday to remove a \$675 million cap on damages from thousands of concussion-related claims after a federal judge questioned whether there would be enough money to cover as many as 20,000 retired players.

A revised settlement agreement filed in federal court in Philadelphia also eliminates a provision that barred anyone who gets concussion damages

from the NFL from suing the NCAA, which oversees college sports, or other amateur American football leagues.

U.S. District Judge Anita Brody had denied preliminary approval of the deal in January because she worried the money could run out sooner than expected. The settlement, negotiated over several months, is designed to last at least 65 years and cover retired players who develop Lou Gehrig's disease,

dementia or other neurological problems believed to be caused by concussions suffered during their pro careers.

More than 4,500 former players have filed suit, some accusing the league of fraud for its handling of concussions. They include former Dallas Cowboys running back Tony Dorsett and Super Bowl-winning Chicago Bears quarterback Jim McMahon, who suffers from dementia.

The original settlement

included \$675 million for compensatory claims for players with neurological symptoms, \$75 million for baseline testing and \$10 million for medical research and education.

The revised settlement eliminates the cap on overall damage claims but retains the payout formula for individual retirees. A young retiree with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, or Lou Gehrig's disease, would receive \$5 million, a 50-year-old with Alzheim-

er's disease would get \$1.6 million, and an 80-year-old with early dementia would get \$25,000.

Critics of the deal have said the league, with annual revenues topping \$9 billion, was getting off lightly. Lawyers for the plaintiffs have said the settlement avoids the risk of a protracted legal battle.

The proposal does not include an admission from the NFL that it hid information from players about head injuries. □

Google shows off Android Auto, wearables

BARBARA ORTUTAY

AP Technology Writer

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Some 1 billion people are now using Android devices, Google said as the company kicked off its two-day developer conference Wednesday in San Francisco.

But the online search leader's effort to broaden its focus beyond smartphones and tablets was on full display as the company unveiled far-reaching plans to push further into the living room, the family car and the TV set.

As part of a nearly three-hour opening presentation, Google gave more details about Android Wear, a version of the operating system customized for wearable gadgets such as smartwatches. The company also introduced Android Auto, which has been tailored to work with cars. Android TV, meanwhile, is optimized for TV-watching, aided by a recommendation system and voice searches for things like "Breaking Bad" or "Oscar-nominated movies from 2002."

About 6,000 developers, bloggers and journalists flocked to the event. Following Google's recent revelation that showed that just 30 percent of its employees are women, the company touted that the number of women attending its conference grew to 20 percent this year from 8 percent a year earlier.

The event was interrupted at several points by protesters who were quickly escorted out. Google has

been the subject of disapproval for its use of shuttle buses to ferry its employees from San Francisco to its Mountain View headquarters. The buses have become a symbol of the divide between Silicon Valley's tech millionaires and those left out of the latest boom.

Google's I/O event — a rally of sorts designed to get developers excited about creating apps and devices for Google's ecosystem — comes at a time of transition for the company, which makes most of its money from advertising thanks to its status as the world's leader in online search. The company is trying to adjust to an ongoing shift to smartphones and tablet computers from desktop and laptop PCs. Though mobile advertising is growing rapidly, advertising aimed at PC users still generates more money.

At the same time, Google is angling to stay at the forefront of innovation by taking gambles on new, sometimes unproven technologies that take years to pay off — if at all. Driverless cars, Google Glass, smartwatches and thinking thermostats are just some of its more far-off bets.

On the home front, Google's Nest Labs — which makes network-connected thermostats and smoke detectors — announced earlier this week that it has created a program that allows outside developers, from tiny startups to large companies such as Whirl-



A demonstration of Android Auto is given during the Google I/O 2014 keynote presentation in San Francisco, Wednesday, June 25, 2014. As the Internet giant's Android operating system stretches into cars, homes and smartwatches, this year's annual confab will expand on its usual focus on smartphones and tablets.

Associated Press

pool and Mercedes-Benz, to fashion software and "new experiences" for its products.

Integration with Mercedes-Benz, for example, might mean that a car can notify a Nest thermostat when it's getting close to home, so the device can have the home's temperature adjusted to the driver's liking before he or she arrives.

Nest's founder, Tony Fadell, is an Apple veteran who helped design the iPod and the iPhone. Google bought the company earlier this year for \$3.2 billion. Opening the Nest platform to outside developers will allow Google to move into the emerging market for connected, smart home devices. Experts expect

that this so-called "Internet of Things" phenomenon will change the way people use technology in much the same way that smartphones have changed life since the introduction of Apple's iPhone seven years ago.

In March, Google released "Android Wear," a version of its operating system tailored to computerized wristwatches and other wearable devices. Although there are already several smartwatches on the market, the devices are more popular with gadget geeks and fitness fanatics than regular consumers. But Google could help change that with Android Wear. Android, after all, is already the world's most

popular smartphone operating system.

At I/O, the company announced three new smartwatches running Android Wear. The LG G and the Samsung Gear Live are available on Wednesday. A third one, Motorola's Moto 360, is coming later this summer — an announcement that drew groans from the audience, which had hoped for an earlier date.

Intent on reaching the billions of people who don't have a smartphone or even Internet access, Google also unveiled an initiative called Android One, designed to help manufacturers build low-cost smartphones for emerging markets such as India.

U.S. marine sanctuary hosts underwater robot event

ALPENA, Michigan (AP)

— Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary will host more than 60 teams this week from 18 states and 13 countries for an underwater robot competition.

The 13th annual Marine Advanced Technology Education Remotely Operated Vehicle International Competition takes place Thursday through Saturday. The competition is expected to bring hundreds of people

to Michigan's northeastern Lower Peninsula, The Alpena News reported (<http://bit.ly/UIWcoz>).

"These teams are the best of the best in their classes, competing against each other," said Sarah Waters, sanctuary education and outreach coordinator. "All the robots are designed differently and each team brings some different skill or design with them to the competition."

An opening ceremony takes place Thursday morning, when teams will be given an overview of the competition and start setting up. Teams will work with their robots in a large tank and judges will be evaluating their performance along with engineering and other factors. The tank used for the competition holds 600,000 gallons (2.27 million liters) of water. Spectators are encouraged to

come and watch teams navigate through the missions on a live feed. An online stream of the competition also is expected, with updates posted on Marine Advanced Technology Education's website.

"This setting gives teams a feel of a ship on the water doing research, and forces them to deal with outside elements," Waters said. "It's very different from being in a warm pool indoors."

Tasks include identifying a shipwreck, collecting microbial samples from a sinkhole, inventorying invasive species and removing trash. Each team is evaluated on factors including the design, construction and performance of its ROV as well as communicating what they learned.

A Remotely Operated Vehicle simulator also will be open Thursday for teams and the public.

Stocks edge higher despite economic data

KEN SWEET

AP Markets Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The U.S. stock market inched modestly higher Wednesday, recovering more than half of what it lost the day be-

nounced a big stock buy-back and reported earnings that beat analysts' estimates.

"The trend for this market is still, for the time being, up," said Anastasia Amoroso,

rose 49.38 points, or 0.3 percent, to 16,867.51.

Consumer discretionary stocks were among the biggest advancers, a sector that includes broadcasters and other media

had argued that Aereo should have to pay for programming the same way cable and satellite providers have to.

CBS rose \$3.64, or 6 percent, to \$62.48 and Walt Disney, which owns ABC, rose \$1.22, or 1.5 percent, to \$83.90. TV station owners also rose. Sinclair Broadcasting jumped \$4.56, or 16 percent, to \$33.80.

Investors weren't fazed by two negative economic reports released Wednesday.

In a revised estimate, the Commerce Department said the U.S. economy shrank at annual rate of 2.9 percent in the first three months of the year. Two-thirds of the downward revision reflected a decline in health care spending. The Commerce Department also said orders for long-lasting goods sank 1 percent in May as demand for military equipment fell sharply.

"GDP for the first quarter was not bad, it was horrible," said Doug Cote and Karyn Cavanaugh of Voya Investment Management, in a note to investors. Investors said the GDP report didn't tell them anything they already knew. Many have already attributed weakness in the U.S. during the first three months of the year to unusually harsh winter weather. □

AbbVie cites tax break as a Shire deal motivator

TOM MURPHY

AP Business Writer

U.S. drugmaker AbbVie sees a compelling tax break behind its roughly \$46 billion bid to buy British counterpart Shire, and it expects the deal to expand Shire's global reach as well.

Leaders of the North Chicago, Illinois, company laid out the reasoning behind their unsolicited, cash-and-stock offer during a Wednesday call with analysts two days after Shire PLC explained why it wasn't interested in the deal.

AbbVie Inc. said it expects the combined company to pay a tax rate of about 13 percent by 2016 after AbbVie reincorporates on the British island of Jersey, where Shire is headquartered. That would be down from its current rate of roughly 22 percent.

Several other U.S. companies are using mergers to reincorporate in countries with lower tax rates. These moves are raising concerns among U.S. lawmakers since they can cost the federal government billions in tax revenue.

AbbVie executives also said the product portfolios of the two companies complement each other, and the combination would immediately give Shire a broader geographic reach. Shire, which is known for its rare-disease drugs, has so far rejected three overtures from AbbVie. Earlier this week, Shire CEO Flemming Orskov told analysts that the company should remain independent and that it expects to more than double its 2013 annual product sales to \$10 billion by 2020. Shire said Wednesday that AbbVie's offer "fundamentally undervalued" the company and its prospects, and its board has already unanimously rejected it.

The British drugmaker also has said its board had concerns about AbbVie's interest in making the move for tax purposes. □



Materialise CEO Wilfried Vancraen, center, and company executives are showered with confetti as Vancraen rings the opening bell marking his company's IPO at the Nasdaq MarketSite, in New York's Times Square, Wednesday, June 25, 2014.

(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

fore, as investors were able to set aside two disappointing economic reports. CBS and other broadcasters rose after the Supreme Court ruled in favor of them over a startup Internet company in a closely watched copyright case. Monsanto rose after the agricultural company an-

a global market strategist with J.P. Morgan Funds.

The Standard & Poor's 500 index rose 9.55 points, or 0.5 percent, to 1,959.53. The index fell roughly 13 points the day before. The Nasdaq composite rose 29.40 points, or 0.7 percent, to 4,379.76 and the Dow Jones industrial average

companies. The U.S. Supreme Court ruled Aereo would have to pay broadcast companies when it takes television programs from the airwaves and allows subscribers to watch them on smartphones and other portable devices.

It was a major win for the broadcast industry, which

Orders for US durable goods drop 1% in May

C. S. RUGABER

AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Orders for U.S. durable goods tumbled 1 percent in May as demand for military equipment fell sharply. But excluding defense-related goods, orders actually rose, and orders in a key category that signals business investment also increased.

The gains outside of military goods suggest business spending is picking up, which could give the economy a much-needed boost.

The Commerce Department said Wednesday that

orders, excluding defense, rose 0.6 percent in May, after falling 0.8 percent in April. Orders for core capital goods, which reflect business investment, increased 0.7 percent, after a 1.1 percent drop.

Demand for military goods is highly volatile and had surged in April, so the sharp drop in May wasn't a surprise and was dismissed by many economists.

"Monthly defense orders are so regularly irregular that they do not matter, given their tendency to promptly reverse," said Michael Montgomery, an

economist at IHS Global Insight.

Factories reported higher demand for steel and other metals, computers, and autos. Durable goods are items expected to last at least three years.

The figures come as a separate report showed that the U.S. economy contracted sharply in the first three months of the year, largely because of bad weather. The economy shrank 2.9 percent at an annual rate in the first quarter, the worst showing since the first quarter of 2009, in the depths of the Great Recession.

But most economists expect growth has resumed in the current quarter, partly because of rising manufacturing output.

Most analysts expect the economy will expand by 3.5 percent in the April-June quarter.

Factory production rose at a steady pace last month, according to the Federal Reserve, as manufacturers cranked out more cars, machinery, furniture, computers and appliances. More output of those goods points to rising demand from consumers and businesses. □

Broadcast TV stocks up strongly on Aereo ruling

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Shares of broadcast TV companies rose strongly Wednesday after the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that online TV service Aereo is violating their copyrights.

CBS Corp. shares rose \$3.09, or 5.3 percent, to \$61.93; Gannett Co. Inc. shares rose \$1.43, or 4.9 percent, to \$30.62; Lin Media LLC shares rose \$1.61, or

6.3 percent, to \$27.38; and Journal Communications Inc. shares rose 51 cents, or 6.3 percent, to \$8.62.

The court rejected Aereo's argument that it is merely an equipment provider because it gives subscribers Internet access to free-to-air TV signals captured by thousands of tiny antennas.

The court found the service

still amounts to a public performance of copyrighted works, which is the exclusive right of copyright holders.

The ruling could shut Aereo down or force it to enter licensing deals with content owners, potentially increasing what it must charge customers for the service.

Analysts said the ruling preserves the market for

retransmission rights — in which cable and satellite TV companies pay broadcasters billions of dollars annually for the right to relay their TV signals to customers.

Research firm SNL Kagan expects those payments to hit \$7.6 billion industrywide by 2019, up from \$3.3 billion last year.

The ruling has the effect of

"lifting the overhang that had weighed on CBS for the past 15 months," Nomura analyst Anthony DiClemente wrote.

As of midday Wednesday, Aereo was still functioning. The lower court, whose ruling was overturned Wednesday, will still have to review factual elements of the case in light of the higher court's decision. □

Etihad agrees in principle to buy Alitalia stake

ADAM SCHRECK
Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — Fast-growing Gulf airline Etihad Airways said Wednesday it had reached a deal in principle to buy a 49 percent stake in struggling Italian carrier Alitalia, expanding its collection of foreign investments to one of Europe's most recognizable aviation brands.

Etihad is owned by the government of Abu Dhabi, the oil-rich capital of the seven-state United Arab Emirates federation. It has been expanding both by building its own route network and through a rapid-fire series of investments in airlines from Europe to Australia. In a joint statement, Etihad said it and Alitalia "have agreed the principal terms and conditions of a proposed transaction" for the near-half stake in the Italian flag carrier following months of negotiation.

"The airlines will now move to finalize the transactional documents, that will include the agreed

upon conditions, as soon as possible," the airline said.

The airlines did not disclose the proposed terms

will want to ensure any deal doesn't violate competition rules.

Etihad already has stakes in a number of European

also is a partial owner of Virgin Australia, Air Seychelles and India's Jet Airways.

Etihad is smaller than its

Italian Transport Minister Maurizio Lupi earlier this month told Italy's state RaiNews that Etihad's investment could reach about 600 million euros (\$816 million) and would revitalize Rome's Fiumicino and Milan's Malpensa airports.

A successful deal would likely involve banks renegotiating more than 500 million euros (\$700 million) in debt, canceling some and converting the rest into shares, according to Italian media reports.

Lupi issued a statement Wednesday saying he and Italy's labor minister would set up a meeting soon to discuss layoffs, which could face resistance by labor unions. He also reported progress with banks in resolving the debt issue during a meeting on Tuesday, but he did not provide details.

"It is ever more clear that this marriage needs to go ahead, because it is by now evident to all that it involves a big industrial investment with concrete prospects for our company," Lupi said. □



Alitalia planes wait on the tarmac prior to take off from the Linate airport, in Milan, Italy. Fast-growing Gulf carrier Etihad Airways says it and Alitalia have reached a deal in principle for the United Arab Emirates-based airline to buy a 49 percent stake in the struggling Italian airline.
(AP Photo/Luca Bruno)

of the accord, which they said remains subject to regulatory approvals. European Union authorities

carriers, including Air Serbia, Ireland's Aer Lingus and Germany's second largest airline, Air Berlin. It

Gulf competitor Qatar Airways and the region's largest carrier, Dubai-based Emirates.

Ex-Circuit City CEO, CarMax co-founder Sharp dies

RICHMOND, Va. (AP) — Richard Sharp, longtime CEO of now-defunct electronics retailer Circuit City and co-founder of used-car dealership chain CarMax Inc., has died at 67.

According to CarMax and investment firm V-Ten Capital Partners, Sharp died Tuesday night at his home just outside Richmond from a rare form of

Alzheimer's disease.

Before joining Circuit City in 1982, the Alexandria, Virginia, native led a custom hardware and software business development company he founded at age 27.

During Sharp's tenure as Circuit City's CEO from 1986 to 2000, the company's revenues grew from \$175 million to \$10.6 billion.

In the early 1990s, Sharp headed a team at Circuit City that led to the creation of CarMax, which has grown to more than 135 stores with revenue of \$12.5 billion in its latest fiscal year. He retired as board chairman in 2007. Sharp was "instrumental in the formation and development of CarMax — creating the vision for the revolutionary concept,"

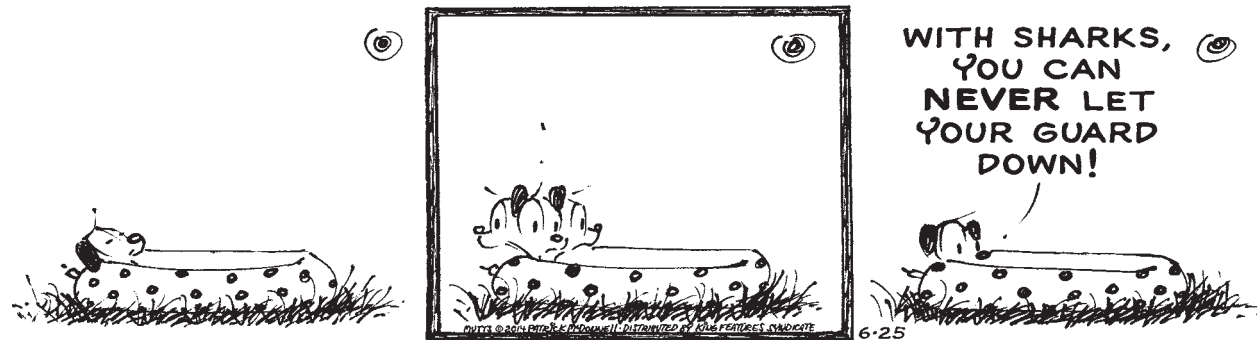
CEO Tom Folliard said in a statement. "Rick's influence on the company is profound and will have a lasting impact."

Sharp, who also was a founding investor of footwear company Crocs Inc., was inducted into the Consumer Electronics Association Hall of Fame in 2008. He spent his later years promoting Alzheimer's disease research.

In the mid-1960s he studied electrical engineering and computer science at the University of Virginia and the College of William and Mary. He later attended Harvard Business School's Advanced Management Program.

Sharp is survived by Sherry, his wife of more than 45 years, his two adult daughters and four grandchildren. □

Mutts



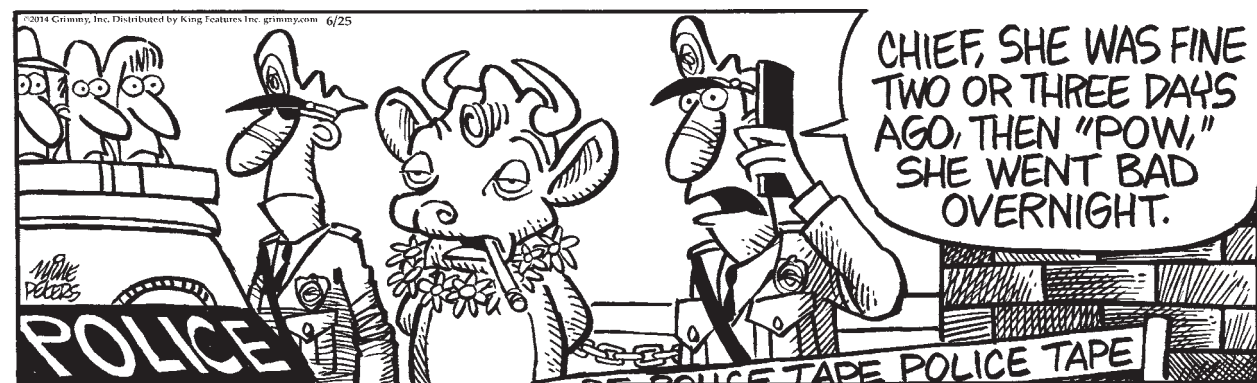
6 Chix



Blondie



Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

	2	8	7					
9				8		7	3	
7			9		4			
2		4		7	8			
	5		4	2		8		
		3	1		5	4		
	4			9	3		8	7
	1					3	9	
						6		

Difficulty Level ★★★

6/25

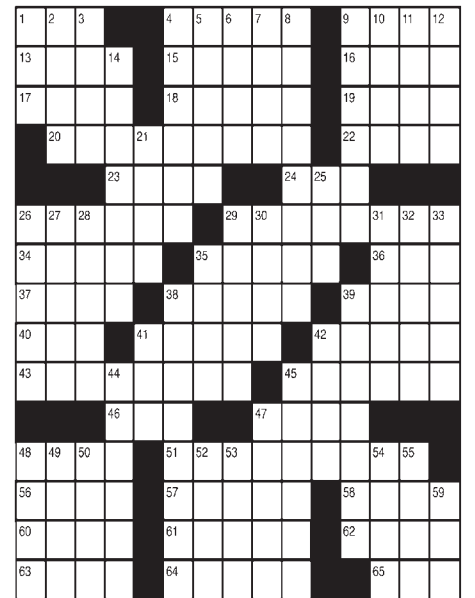
Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

5	3	2	4	1	7	9	6	8
6	9	7	8	3	5	1	2	4
8	4	1	2	9	6	3	5	7
1	5	3	6	7	9	4	8	2
4	7	8	1	5	2	6	9	3
9	2	6	3	8	4	7	1	5
3	6	9	5	4	8	2	7	1
7	8	4	9	2	1	5	3	6
2	1	5	7	6	3	8	4	9

ACROSS

- 1 Lower limb
4 Each __; one another
9 Daddy
13 Sound of a pistol firing
15 Tomb
16 Mountain goat
17 Celebrity
18 __ about; extols excitedly
19 Greenish-blue
20 Monthly mailing from the bank
22 Doing nothing
23 Part of a tooth
24 Primate
26 Bits of parsley
29 Fabric
34 Assumed name
35 Actor Tyrone
36 Mineral spring
37 Prohibits
38 Lubricated
39 Gullible ones
40 At the __ of the day; ultimately
41 Drive too fast
42 Commandment verb
43 Brave firemen, at times
45 Locations
46 That girl
47 Reserve, as a hotel room
48 Greek letter
51 Adjective in a paper towel ad
56 Hammerer's target
57 Unspoken, but understood
58 Hit the __; leave
60 "My Country, 'Tis of __"
61 Jagged
62 Japanese wrestling form
63 Remove from power
64 Talk out of
65 Hair covering
- DOWN
- 1 Pounds: abbr.



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

6/25/14

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

BAND	BARED	CABS
OBEY	OPERA	ACRE
BLUE	THERMOSTAT	
SET	HAIL	GUSTS
	ROUND	IRA
SHANTY	AMELIA	
COLTS	GRIPS	DUD
OHIO	GOALS	CEDE
TUT	FLATS	DRAIN
MYRIAD	REALTY	
	OLD	RABBIT
ABBOT	PANT	SHE
SLITHERING	STAY	
KALE	LUNGE	KITE
SHED	SNEER	ICED

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6/25/14

- 35 Wharf
38 Did surgery
39 Salt containers
41 Take to court
42 Messy person
44 Alpine home
45 Redcap
47 Idaho's capital
48 5 __ 10 is 2
- 49 Hawaiian island
50 Connections
52 Unclothed
53 Glasgow native
54 Person, place or thing
55 Make gentle
59 __-com; Web business

Crime fears, rumors of refuge draw children to US

Continued from Page 11

"The story is that you have to give yourself up to the Border Patrol, provide a contact in the United States and you'll be freed even though they give you a court date far in the future," said Ruben Figueroa, a member of the Meso-america Migrant Movement who works in a shelter for migrants crossing the southeast Mexico state of Tabasco. "If you combine this information with the violence in the streets and extortion keeping people from living their lives, the result is a massive exodus." Rocio Quinteros worked selling snacks in front of a school in San Miguel, 80 miles outside the capital of El Salvador, until gangsters' demands for a percentage of her income made it im-

possible to make a living. She said that when she could no longer afford to pay, members of the Mara Salvatrucha gang threatened to recruit her 14-year-old son instead. This month, she told local gang members she was taking her four children, ages 11 to 17, to see their sick grandmother in another city. Then they abandoned their packed-dirt home on the northeastern edge of the city and headed north. "They ask you for 100 and you give it, then they ask for 200, and they suffocate you until you have to hand over everything, even your house," she said as she waited with her youngest child in the women's section of Arriaga's migrant shelter. "If we had stayed in El Salvador, I already would have had to bury one of my sons." □

FOR SALE



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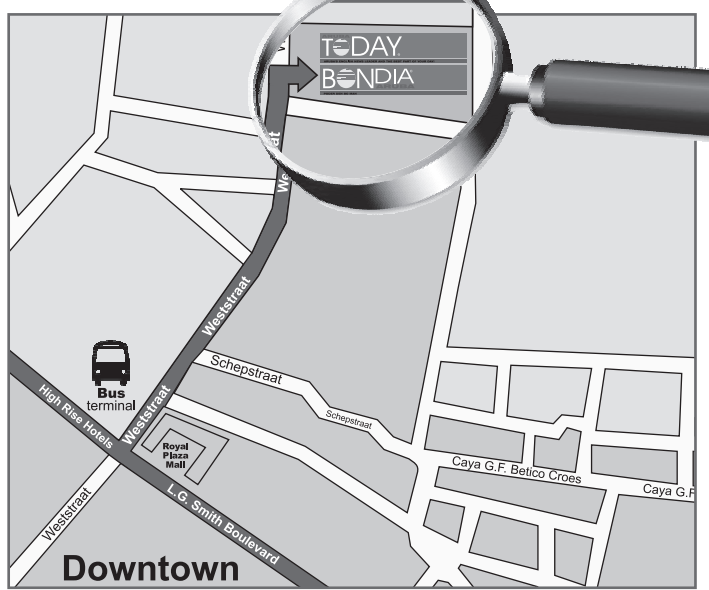
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June 26
Freewinds



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Foundation Amor

pa Prohimo

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Women in Difficulties

Foundation

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Bloodbank Aruba

Tel: 587-0002

Money men tally cost of climate change

JONATHAN FAHEY

AP Energy Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Climate change is likely to exact enormous costs on U.S. regional economies in the form of lost property, reduced industrial output and more deaths, according to a report backed by a trio of men with vast business experience.

The report, released Tuesday, is designed to convince businesses to factor in the cost of climate change in their long-term decisions and to push for reductions in emissions blamed for heating the planet.

It was commissioned by the Risky Business Project, which describes itself as nonpartisan and is chaired by former New York City Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg, former Treasury Secretary Henry M. Paulson Jr. and Thomas F. Steyer, a former hedge fund manager.

"If we act immediately, we can still avoid most of the worst impacts of climate change and significantly reduce the odds of catastrophic outcomes," Paulson said.

Among the predictions: Between \$66 billion and \$106 billion in coastal property will likely be below sea level by 2050, labor productivity of outdoor workers could be reduced by 3 percent because extremely hot days will be far more frequent, and demand for electricity to power air conditioners will require the construction of more power plants that will cost electricity customers up to \$12 billion per year.

"Every year that goes by without a comprehensive



In this July 11, 2012 file photo, Steve Niedbalski shows his drought and heat stricken corn while chopping it down for feed in Nashville, Ill. Higher temperatures will reduce Midwest crop yields by 19 percent by midcentury and by 63 percent by the end of the century, according to a report backed by a trio of men with vast business experience that was released Tuesday, June 24, 2014.

Associated Press

public and private sector response to climate change is a year that locks in future climate events that will have a far more devastating effect on our local, regional, and national economies," warn the report's authors.

The analysis and calculations in the report were performed by the Rhodium Group, an economic research firm, and Risk Management Solutions, a catastrophe-modeling company that works for insurance companies and other businesses. It was paid for by the philanthropic foundations of Bloomberg, Paulson and Steyer, among others.

The report analyzes the impacts of climate change by region to better show how climate change affects the businesses and



This Oct. 31, 2012 file aerial photo shows storm damage from Sandy over the Atlantic Coast in Mantoloking, N.J. Climate change is likely to exact enormous costs on U.S. regional economies in the form of lost property, reduced industrial output and more deaths, according to a report backed by a trio of men with vast business experience that was released on Tuesday, June 24, 2014.

Associated Press

industries that drive each region's economy.

— The Northeast will likely be most affected by sea level rise, which will cost an additional \$6 billion to \$9 billion in property loss each year.

— The Southeast will likely be affected both by sea-level rise and extreme temperatures. The region, which has averaged eight days of temperatures over 95 degrees each year, will likely see an additional 17 to 52 of these days by midcentury and up to four months of them by the end of the century. This could lead to 11,000 to 36,000 additional deaths per year.

— Higher temperatures will reduce Midwest crop yields by 19 percent by midcentury and by 63 percent by the end of the century.

— The Southwest will see an extra month of temperatures above 95 degrees by 2050, which will lead to more frequent droughts and wildfires.

The report does not calculate the cost of these droughts or wildfires, or many other possible costs such as the loss of unique ecosystems and species and the possible compounding effects of extreme weather conditions. Nor does it calculate some of the ways economies

could adapt to the changing climate and reduce the costs of climate change.

"There's a whole litany of things not calculated in the assessment," said Gary Yohe, an economics and environmental studies professor at Wesleyan University and vice chair of the National Climate Assessment, a U.S. government project set up to study the effects of climate change. Yohe was not part of the Risky Business Project report, but he was asked to review it. Still, he said, "The general conclusions are right on the money."

He also said that while other groups have also attempted to calculate the financial impacts of climate change around the world, this report is notable because of the business and financial experience of the people behind it. Beyond the three co-chairs, the members of the group's risk committee include Former Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin, former Cargill CEO Gregory Page, and George Shultz, former treasury secretary and secretary of state.

"These are people who have managed risk all their lives and have made an enormous amount of money doing so," Yohe said. □



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In this Tuesday, Oct. 10, 2006, file photo, Daniel Handler, a.k.a. Lemony Snicket, attends the Second Annual Quill Awards, at the American Museum of Natural History in New York.

Associated Press

Lemony Snicket author to host National Book Awards

NEW YORK (AP) — Welcome back to the National Book Awards, Daniel Handler, aka Lemony Snicket. The National Book Foundation announced Wednesday that the best-selling author will host this fall's awards ceremony. In 2008, Handler chaired the panel that gave out the award for best young people's literature book. Foundation executive director Harold Augenbraum praised Handler as "witty"

and "charming. Handler said in a statement that when contacted by Augenbraum he thought he had won an award. "Um, guess again," the executive director told him. The ceremony, presented by the book foundation, is scheduled for Nov. 19. Previous hosts have included Steve Martin, Walter Mosley and Andy Borowitz. Last year's event was hosted by Mika Brzezinski of MSNBC's "Morning Joe." □

MTV bringing 'TRL' back for 1 day with Grande

MESFIN FEKADU
AP Music Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — MTV will reprise its former "Total Request Live" countdown show for a day with breakthrough pop singer Ariana Grande.

The network announced Wednesday it will bring back the series on July 2. Grande has the No. 2 song in the country with the saxophone-laced "Problem."

The 20-year-old will perform her latest hit on "Total Ariana Live," debut her follow-up single and discuss her upcoming sophomore album.

"TRL" ended its run in 2008 after 10 years. The show was MTV's most influential franchise, but the network pulled the plug after declining ratings.

Grande was the star of the Nickelodeon sitcoms "Vic-



In this May 18, 2014 file photo, Ariana Grande performs at the Billboard Music Awards at the MGM Grand Garden Arena, in Las Vegas.

Associated Press

torious" and "Sam & Cat." She released her debut album last year, which featured the hit "The Way." The half-hour "Total Ariana Live" will air next Wednesday at 7 p.m. Eastern. □

Veteran character actor, Eli Wallach, dies at 98

JAKE COYLE
AP Film Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — As a masterful character actor and early product of post-war, Method-style theater, Eli Wallach wore countless faces, disappearing into them all. But he was always propelled — in acting and in life — by a mischievousness and an abiding playfulness that made him a tireless performer, an enduring family man, and, of course, one immortal scoundrel.

"I never lost my appetite for acting," Wallach wrote in his 2005 memoir "The Good, The Bad, and Me," named after his most famous film. "I feel like a magician." Wallach died Tuesday evening from natural causes after 98 years of life, 66 years of marriage and some 100 films, including several he made in his 90s. His son, Peter Wallach, confirmed his passing Wednesday.

The versatile, raspy-voiced actor was a mainstay of Tennessee Williams' plays (he won a Tony Award for "The Rose Tattoo" in 1951) and an original member of the Actors Studio in the early days of Method acting. But the most notable credit in his prolific career was "The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly," in which he played the rascally Mexican outlaw Tuco.

As the "Ugly" of the title, he stole Sergio Leone's spaghetti Western from "The Good" (Clint Eastwood) with lines like: "When you have to shoot, shoot, don't talk."

"Everywhere I go, someone will recognize me from 'The Good, the Bad and the Ugly' and start whistling the theme song," he said in a 2003 interview, referring to Ennio Morricone's famous score. "I can feel when it's going to happen."

Wallach never won an Oscar, but he was given an honorary Academy Award in 2010, hailed as the "quintessential chameleon." "I've played more bandits, thieves, killers, war-



This Feb. 27, 2011 file photo shows actor Eli Wallach, left, and his wife Anne Jackson at the 83rd Academy Awards in the Hollywood section of Los Angeles.

Associated Press

lords, molesters and Mafia-fiosi that you could shake a stick at," Wallach said, accepting the award from Eastwood. Wallach's personal life, he added, was more placid and law-abiding: He loved collecting antique clocks, watching tennis and telling stories. Wallach also starred in the steamy "Baby Doll" (1956), "The Magnificent Seven" (1960), "The Misfits" (1961) and "The Godfather Part II" (1974), in which he played a murderous mobster who dies after eating poisoned cannoli.

Wallach and his wife, Anne Jackson, were a formidable duo on the stage, starring in a series of plays, including George Bernard Shaw's "Major Barbara" in 1956 and a hugely successful run of "Luv" in the mid-1960s. Their partnership was epic by Hollywood acting-couple standards. They played a married couple together as recently as 2003 on the NBC medical drama "ER."

"Although I limp in life as a result of my two hip operations, whenever I go on-stage with Anne, the lights give my body a lift and I prance onto the stage and dance off," Wallach wrote in his memoir. "I feel I can play a 16-year-old if the author calls for that. Which is why I prefer live acting to

film — I come alive with the lights." Wallach met Jackson (also an Actors Studio charter member) while they were appearing off-Broadway in Williams' "This Property Is Condemned." They married in 1948 and had three children, Peter, who became a film animator, and two daughters, Roberta and Katherine, both of whom followed their parents into acting. Wallach was also great uncle to the New York Times film critic A.O. Scott, an ironic relation, in a way, for an actor who once said: "Having the critics praise you is like having the hangman say you've got a pretty neck."

But his great nephew nevertheless celebrated him, once writing: "With Eli, there is an impish, sly quality, not a self-conscious winking, exactly, but a palpable relish at the sheer fun of acting." Wallach was born in Brooklyn on Dec. 7, 1915, the son of an immigrant candy store owner. Other family members were doctors, lawyers and teachers, but Wallach instead went into acting (he compared it to joining the Foreign Legion). His drama training was interrupted by World War II service in the Army medical corps, in which he earned the rank of captain. □

What's the hash? Why hashtags for TV shows matter

ALICIA RANCILIO
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — During fresh episodes of "Pretty Little Liars," the marketing and publicity teams at ABC Family huddle in a conference room to tweet live with fans.

So do cast members and the show's producers from where and when they can — and the dialogue often pays off.

Nielsen's Twitter tracking division said "PLL" is America's top-tweeted show and ranked No. 1 for the week of June 16-22.

"From a very top level perspective we talk about twitter being the new water cooler," said Danielle Mullin, the network's vice president of marketing.

While some critics argue the second screen experience of looking at a device while a show is on serves to distract viewers, networks see nothing but an upside. Some insight into hashtags and while watching TV:

HOW HASHTAGS WORK FOR VIEWERS

Hashtags make it easier to filter and search for a topic. Liz Myers, in the TV Partner-

Scandal @ScandalABC Jun 18
"And to be clear, I am the hell and the high water." Happy Father's Day #PapaPope.
#Scandal



This image released by ABC shows a screengrab from a Tweet from the show "Scandal." Hashtags make it easier to filter and search for a topic. Liz Myers, who works in the TV Partnerships division at Twitter, said hashtags can help connect people. More and more actors are getting into the game and tweeting with fans while a show is airing. The "Scandal" cast is notorious for making a huge effort to tweet when the show is airing.

Associated Press

ships division at Twitter, said viewers "don't have to be mutually following somebody or digging around." Sometimes hashtags are straightforward with a show's title (#TrueBlood.) Other times they're used as conversation starters and are episode or scene specific. (The hashtag #ToBylsBack aired in a recent "PLL" episode when actor Keegan Allen's character

returned from an absence.) Myers said hashtags "can pinpoint moments, drive voting (on a competition series), create content" and offer insight into how to later talk about a show. ENCOURAGE LIVE VIEWING If DVR's are helping people watch TV shows at their leisure, live tweeting may provide an incentive to tune in when it counts, in real time. "The more people who talk

about it, the more people watch," said Jenn Deering Davis, co-founder and chief custom officer of Union Metrics, a company that analyzes social media use.

And it could bring in new viewers by "creating impressions for those who aren't already talking about the show to see that conversation and hopefully change the channel," added Myers.

Mullin said she believes tweets can "play into this phenomenon of FOMO — fear of missing out. When you're on Twitter and your entire feed is people talking about something, if you're not watching you start to feel left out."

REWARDING VIEWERS

Networks try to reward viewers for their tweets. Not only will they retweet fan's tweets from show accounts but sometimes air tweets on screen live, in reruns or during promos.

When it was revealed that Jen Arnold of TLC's "The Little Couple" had cancer, the network selected sentiments from fans with the hashtag #GetWellJen to show later on screen.

More and more actors, like the cast of ABC's "Scandal," are getting into the game and tweeting with fans while a show is airing.

IMMEDIATE FEEDBACK

Tweeting about a TV show, and using specific hashtags, is like an immediate focus group.

"We always look and see what people are saying about our shows and it helps us inform our strategy," said Kristen Variola, director of social media for TLC. "We want to give (viewers) what they want. If we see something is really resonating with the fans we like to create more content around that."

Mullin added, "In this day and age it's very hard for any showrunner or writer's room to stay off social media. It's a great way to hear the voice of the people.

... If there's a certain character people don't like or a certain couple people love. (Feedback) is a great tool for storytellers to use when deciding what direction to take their show in."

KEEPS MOMENTUM GOING

Tweeting about a show also keeps people interested for the long haul.



This image released by ABC News shows, from left, David Muir, George Stephanopoulos, Diane Sawyer and ABC News President James Goldston on Wednesday, June 25, 2014, in New York. Sawyer is stepping down as its evening news anchor, to be replaced by David Muir.

Associated Press

DAVID BAUDER
AP Television Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — ABC News is making a generational change at the top of its evening newscast, replacing Diane Sawyer with 40-year-old understudy David Muir in an attempt to take a run at longtime rat-

ings leader Brian Williams at NBC's "Nightly News."

ABC also announced Wednesday that George Stephanopoulos will add the role of chief anchor for live news events and election nights to his current jobs as "Good Morning America" co-host and

ABC says Muir replacing Sawyer at 'World News'

host of the Sunday-morning "This Week" political show. The exit of Sawyer, 68, is not unexpected. She will remain at ABC News to concentrate on doing prime-time specials and landing newsmaking interviews, where theoretically she'll have less internal competition with Barbara Walters semi-retired and Katie Couric now at Yahoo.

When Muir starts as "World News" top anchor on Sept. 2, it makes that role a men's club at the broadcast networks again, as he joins Williams and Scott Pelley of the "CBS Evening News." In a plugged-in world, network evening newscasts are a vestige of another time. Yet the three broadcasts together averaged 21 million viewers last week, with the audience usually

smaller in the summer. ABC has been a steady No. 2 behind NBC for years, even predating Sawyer taking over as anchor in 2009, but has made inroads in recent months among younger viewers.

Two years ago ABC's "Good Morning America" toppled another longtime champ at NBC and new ABC News President James Goldston has his sights set on doing the same in the evening.

Muir has been groomed for the job. He steps in as anchor when Sawyer is away, as he did last week, and once anchored the week-end newscast. His "Made in America" reports give him a high profile on "World News" and travel around the country.

From Syracuse, New York,

Muir swept floors as a teenager in a local television newsroom and got his first on-air job in that city. "On this incredibly humbling day, I think of the 12-year-old boy with a dream of being a reporter and seeing the world," Muir said in a statement. "I never could have imagined seeing that world with Diane Sawyer." ABC didn't make news division President James Goldston or any of the anchors available for interviews.

When Muir is host, "World News" tends to be faster-paced with more stories, said Andrew Tyndall, a news consultant who monitors the content of evening newscasts.

"It's the same newscast with a different face," Tyndall said.

The Frustration Doctrine



CHARLES M. BLOW
© 2014 New York Times

Americans' confidence in American leadership is flagging to such a degree that it poses a critical threat to our democracy, particularly as moneyed interests seek to manipulate the malaise and stir policy and politician away from principle and toward profit.

President Barack Obama's approval ratings remain underwater, and an NBC News/Wall Street Journal poll released last week found that his numbers have gotten even worse on foreign policy. As NBC put it:

"The percentage of Americans approving of President Barack Obama's handling of foreign policy issues has dropped to the lowest level of his presidency as he faces multiple overseas challenges, including in Iraq."

Furthermore, in the bad-news column for the administration and the country, a majority in the Journal poll felt that, for the remainder of his presidency, the president would not be able to lead and "get the job done," whatever getting the job done meant to the individuals answering.

It was not clear if these respondents held this view because of the obstacles of congressional obstruction, the premature hyperventilating about the 2016 cycle or if they believed there was something personally lacking in the president.

Whatever the case, assigning a president to lame-duck status more than two years before his term ends is probably not good for the psyche of a nation.

Congress doesn't fare better. Confidence in the legislature is actually much lower. According to a Gallup poll released last week, confidence in Congress has dropped to a historic low with only 7 percent of respondents saying they have a "great deal" or "quite a lot" of confidence in the institution.

In fact, the Gallup poll, conducted early this month, found that less than a third of Americans have a "great deal" or "quite a lot" of confidence in the Supreme Court, and various other institutions, including public schools, banks, the criminal justice system, organized labor and big business.

Only three groups broke the 50 percent confidence mark: the military, the police and small businesses.

The NBC News/Wall Street Journal poll last week also found that nearly two-thirds of Americans continue to believe that the country is headed in the wrong direction.

As many Americans, particularly those in the middle, throw up their hands in disgust and walk away in dismay, hyperpartisans - particularly conservatives - exert more influence.

According to a Pew Research Center report issued this month, while there are more moderates than consistent liberals or conservatives, those moderates are the least likely to be politically active. The ambivalent middle appears to be the cradle of apathy.

And while the consistently liberal are more likely to do things like volunteer for a candidate or a campaign, consistent conservatives are much more likely than liberals to vote.

This behavioral imbalance is only amplified by donors, who are exerting more influence on the parties and candidates by distributing more cash. And almost all of the biggest donors are now giving to Republican joint fundraising committees (JFCs). According to a report issued this month by the Center for Responsive Politics:

"This year, there's been a clear shift in the profile of JFC contributors, with Republicans topping the list of the heaviest donors. So far this cycle, the top 20 deep-pocketed contributors to the joint committees are all giving to conservatives. In contrast, during the 2012 cycle four of the top five donors to JFCs were giving to Democrats."

Big money flooding our politics is what the Supreme Court's *Citizens United v. FEC* and *McCutcheon v. FEC* rulings have wrought.

That's why, earlier this month, the Senate held a debate in the Judiciary Committee on a constitutional amendment proposed by a Democrat that was a direct response to the Supreme Court decisions.

Then there are the enormous and profound voter suppression efforts sweeping many parts of the country, particularly the South, and disproportionately disenfranchising people of color, as a new report from the Center for American Progress and the Southern Election Foundation points out.

There is a concerted effort to confuse, obfuscate and disenfranchise - to push more people away from the process, so that those who remain have more influence.

We can't afford to get frustrated and check out. We have to ask ourselves: Is frustration part of the plan? Is your exasperation an entree to your marginalization? And, if your vote isn't valuable, why are so many working so hard to take it away?

Don't let your frustration become your foil; wield it like a sword. Vote □



Rhapsody In Realism



DAVID BROOKS
© 2014 New York Times

A few years ago, I came across an article on a blog that appealed tremendously. It was on a subject that obviously I have a lot to learn about. But it was actually the tone and underlying worldview that was so instructive, not just the substance.

The article was called "15 Ways to Stay Married for 15 Years" by Lydia Netzer. The first piece of advice was "Go to bed mad." Normally couples are told to resolve each dispute before they call it a night. But Netzer writes that sometimes you need to just go to bed. It won't do any good to stay up late when you're tired and petulant: "In the morning, eat some pancakes. Everything will seem better, I swear."

Another piece of advice is to brag about your spouse in public and let them overhear you bragging.

Later, she tells wives that they should make a husband pact with their friends. "The husband pact says this: I promise to listen to you complain about your husband even in the most dire terms, without it affecting my good opinion of him. I will agree with your harshest criticism, accept your gloomiest predictions. I will nod and furrow my brow and sigh when you describe him as a hideous ogre. Then when your fight is over and love shines

again like a beautiful sunbeam in your life, I promise to forget everything you said and regard him as the most charming of princes once more."

Most advice, whether on love or business or politics, is based on the premise that we can just will ourselves into being rational and good and that the correct path to happiness is a straight line. These writers, in the "Seven Habits of Highly Effective People" school, are essentially telling you to turn yourself into a superstar by discipline and then everything will be swell.

But Netzer's piece is nicely based on the premise that we are crooked timber. We are, to varying degrees, foolish, weak and often just plain inexplicable - and always will be. As Kant put it: "Out of the crooked timber of humanity no straight thing was ever made."

People with a crooked timber mentality tend to see life as full of ironies. Intellectual life is ironic because really smart people often do the dumbest things precisely because they are carried away by their own brilliance. Politics is ironic because powerful people make themselves vulnerable because they think they can achieve more than they can. Marriage is ironic because you are trying to build a pure relationship out of people who are ramshackle and messy. There's an awesome incongruity between the purity you glimpse in the love and the fact that he leaves used tissues around the house and it drives you crazy. People with a crooked timber mentality try to find comedy in the mixture of high and low. There's something fervent in Netzer's belief in marital loyalty: "You and your spouse are a team of two. It is you against the world. No one else is allowed on the team, and no one else will ever understand the team's rules." Yet the piece is

written with a wry appreciation of human foibles. If you have to complain about your husband's latest outrage to somebody's mother, she writes, complain to his mother, not to yours. "His mother will forgive him. Yours never will."

People with a crooked timber mentality try to adopt an attitude of bemused affection. A person with this attitude finds the annoying endearing and the silly adorable. Such a person tries to remember that we each seem more virtuous from our own vantage point than from anybody else's. People with a crooked timber mentality are anti-perfectionist. When two people are working together there are bound to be different views, and sometimes you can't find a solution so you have to settle for an arrangement. You have to design structures that have a lot of give, for when people screw up. You have to satiate, which is Herbert Simon's term for any option that is not optimal but happens to work well enough.

Great and small enterprises often have two births: first in purity, then in maturity. The idealism of the Declaration of Independence gave way to the cold-eyed balances of the Constitution. Love starts in passion and ends in car pools.

The beauty of the first birth comes from the lofty hopes, but the beauty of the second birth comes when people begin to love frailty. (Have you noticed that people from ugly places love their cities more tenaciously than people from beautiful cities?) The mature people one meets often have this crooked timber view, having learned from experience the intransigence of imperfection and how to make a friend of every stupid stumble. As Thornton Wilder once put it, "In love's service only wounded soldiers can serve." □

Deconstructing the Perfect Burger

SAM SIFTON

© 2014 New York Times

How to make a great hamburger is a question that has bedeviled the nation for generations, for as long as Americans have had griddles and broilers, for as long as summertime shorts-wearing cooks have gone into the yard to grill.

But the answer is simple, according to many of those who make and sell the nation's best hamburgers: Cook on heavy, cast-iron pans and griddles. Cook outside if you like, heating the pan over the fire of a grill, but never on the grill itself. The point is to allow rendering beef fat to gather around the patties as they cook, like a primitive high-heat confit.

"That is the best way to do it," said George Motz, the documentary filmmaker who released "Hamburger America" in 2005 and has since become a leading authority on hamburgers. The beef fat collected in a hot skillet, Motz said, acts both as a cooking and a flavoring agent. "Grease is a condiment that is as natural as the beef itself," he said. "A great burger should be like a baked potato, or sashimi. It should taste completely of itself."

Michael Symon, the ebullient television Iron Chef, a host of ABC's "The Chew" and a proprietor of a small chain of Midwestern hamburger restaurants called B Spot, agreed. Symon's restaurants each serve more than 1,000 hamburgers a night, he said, all of them finished on a flat-top griddle coated in beef fat.

"Use a skillet," he said on a speakerphone, on the way to a flight to Detroit, where he is opening a B Spot. He was emphatic about the subject. "A grill is too difficult," he said. "A hot skillet is what you want."

We will return to the business of how to use that skillet, for - as Symon hastened to add - the surface on which you cook is only one component of hamburger excellence. There is also the size of the hamburger. There is the kind of meat used to create it. There is

the bun. There is cheese or there is not. There are tomato debates, lettuce quarrels (on top or on the bottom?). There are questions of ketchup, of mustard, of pickles, of onions. Some of these things are matters of personal taste, but for people who know burgers well, there is little

"Most of the time, 7 ounces is more than enough," said Geoffrey Zakarian, the chef and owner of the National Bar and Dining Rooms, in New York, which serves a fine hamburger of roughly that size. Zakarian cautioned against hamburgers of more than a half-pound in weight. "You want to get

Home cooks should experiment, he said, with blends that contain from 20 to 25 percent fat. Restaurateurs, sometimes driven by the marketing efforts of celebrity butchers, tout hamburger blends of chuck and brisket, hanger and strip steak, short rib and clod. In New York, Pat LaF-

Kid Blend, World of Warfare edition."

"If you're an anti-social stoner agoraphobe," Mylan writes, "this is for you. Fire up the Xbox and dig in."

But home cooks and those who speak for them most often advocate the use of chuck steak for hamburg-



A plump tavern-style hamburger, left, with a thick char that gives way to tender, often blood-red meat, sits next to a traditional diner-style burger in New York, June 2014. The secret to cooking a great hamburger is simple, experts say: Cook on heavy, cast-iron pans and griddles, use an 80-20 ratio of meat to fat, use a soft bun and don't overdress.

(Andrew Scrivani/The New York Times)

disagreement about the best practices for making an exceptional one.

It is best to start at the beginning. Great hamburgers fall into two distinct categories. There is the traditional griddled hamburger of diners and takeaway spots, smashed thin and cooked crisp on its edges. And there is the pub- or tavern-style hamburger, plump and juicy, with a thick char that gives way to tender, often blood-red meat within.

The diner hamburger has a precooked weight of 3 to 4 ounces, roughly an ice-cream-scoop's worth of meat. The pub-style one is heavier, but not a great deal heavier. Its precooked weight ought to fall, experts say, between 7 and 8 ounces.

some heat to the inside of the burger," he said. "You don't want some giant, underdone meatloaf."

Whichever style you cook, pay close attention to the cuts of beef used in the grind. The traditional hamburger is made of ground chuck steak, rich in both fat and flavor, in a ratio that ideally runs about 80 percent meat, 20 percent fat. Less fat leads to a drier hamburger. Avoid, the experts say, supermarket blends advertised with words like "lean."

Too much fat, on the other hand, can lead to equally troubling issues, and a mess in both fact and flavor. "You get up around 30 percent fat," Symon said, and there are risks. "Things happen," he said. "Bad things. Shrinkage."

rieda Meat Purveyors has built a carriage-trade business on the back of whimsical blends of beef for hamburgers, in particular the custom Black Label blend put together for Keith McNally's Minetta Tavern, in Manhattan. The particulars of that blend are kept secret by LaFrieda, but he has allowed that about 30 percent of it is dry-aged New York strip steak.

Tom Mylan, one of the owners of the Meat Hook butcher shop in Brooklyn, occasionally cuts bacon into his burger blends, and sometimes accompanies these with chunks of cheddar and sour-cream-and-onion-flavored potato chips. In his recent cookbook, "The Meat Hook Meat Book," he calls that particular mixture the "Fat

ers. Michael Ruhlman, the erudite Cleveland writer and cook, gives short shrift to fancy blends of meat. "I believe the only critical ratio is the meat to fat," he said, adding that he generally buys a fatty cut of chuck steak and grinds it at home. "That gives me a great burger every time," he said. Which cheese you use is a matter of preference, but Motz does not sneeze at the highly processed slice that has covered the nation's hamburgers since the early days of White Castle restaurants. "American cheese is designed to melt," he said, "and it has 50 percent more sodium than Cheddar or Swiss, so it adds a lot of flavor while also helping to hold the smashed patty together." □